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KC DELUXE

賭博覇王伝 零ゼロ ギャン鬼編

7

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宝なんだ！
何事もない毎日・・・・
青空が・・！

ZERO

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

とばくはおうでん

賭博覇王伝ゼロ

実

ギャンキ編
GYANKI

7

福本伸行

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

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HIROYUKI EIKUHIRO PRESENTS
7

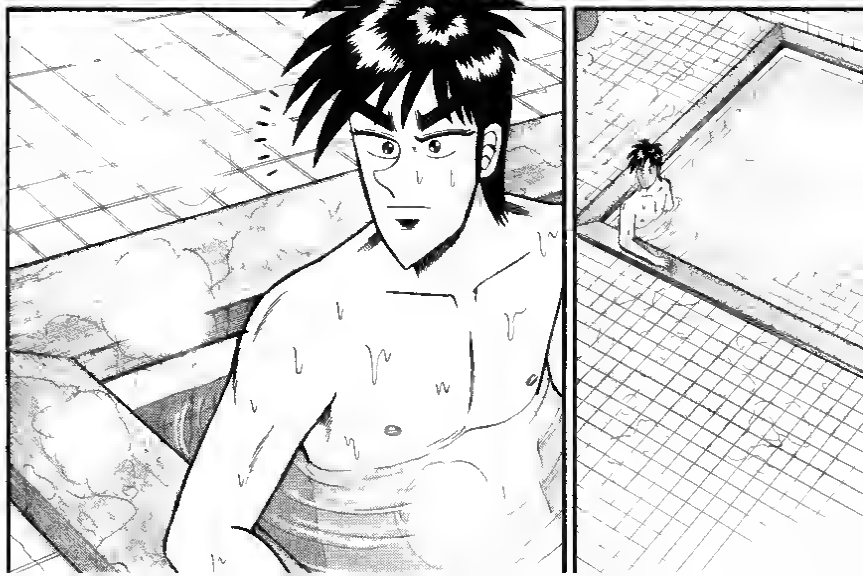
Chapter 53 Outlook
Later that night,
福壽館
Zero and the gang take a well-deserved rest.
がぁ～～～っ

龍虎の間に
Between the Dragon and Tiger
3
4
5
6
7
8
寅卯辰
二六五
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
Shadows of 6 Birds,
影
379

湯
男
WHEW...

3779…
……

WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY MEAN…?
WHAT'S THE NUMBER FOR?



AHH!!!
THAT CHAIR--
WAIT A SEC...
W...
AND THAT VIEW...!
COULD IT BE...!?

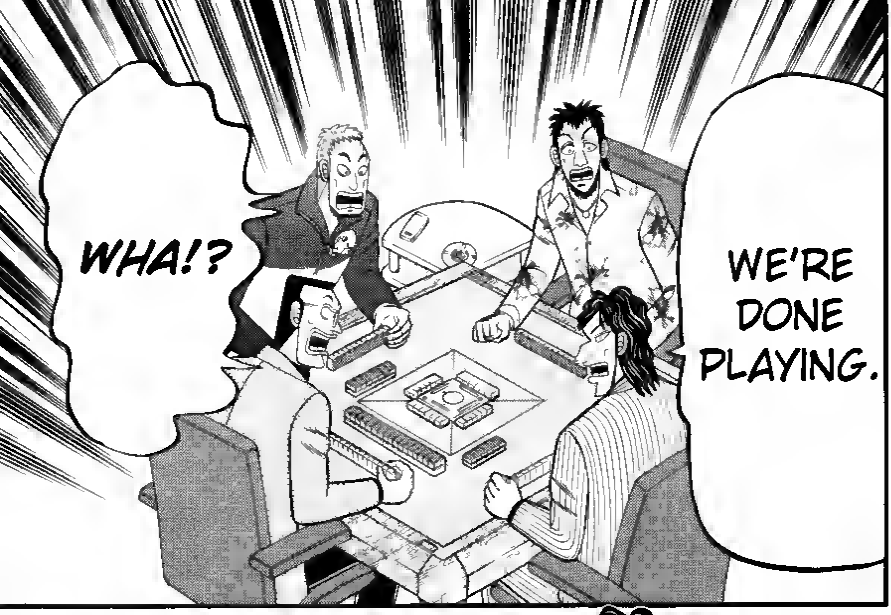
AHH!
COULD 3779 HAVE TO DO WITH...
I GOT IT!
SO WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME...
IT'S ALREADY 4 IN THE MORNING.
WAIT,
.....

BEFORE,
AND WE STARTED WORKING ON IT,
EVEN IF I WOKE THE OTHERS UP,
THE OTHERS ARRIVE...!
WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FINISH,
JUST AS WE'RE FINISH-ING UP...
SO THEY'D PROBABLY ARRIVE,
THEY'VE BEEN TAILING US SINCE YESTER-DAY,
WHAT MIGHT THE SUSPECT DO...?
AND IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN,

カラ…
DAMN IT!
HM…
IT'S NO GOOD
IT'S TOO RISKY!
OHH ZEROOO!
HOW ABOUT A NICE BATH TOGETHER?
WHAT IS IT NOW!?
OH NO! HE SOUNDS REALLY ANGRY THIS TIME!
D-D-DON'T WORRY!
I'LL HANDCUFF MYSELF SO I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD!
YOU CAN TRUST ME!

JUNKO!
AHH!
OF COURSE!
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE!
HUH?
THEN I NEED TO GET THINGS READY...
トゥルルル
トゥルルル
HELLO?
WHO IS IT?
ZERO?

OUT OF THE BLUE, ISN'T IT..
A RATHER STRANGE REQUEST.
HM?
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN TELL THAT I'M NEEDED RIGHT NOW.
SAY NO MORE,
BUT FINE, I UNDERSTAND/
IT'S YOUR TURN, BOSS.
I'LL GET THE STUFF READY AND HEAD OVER THERE RIGHT AWAY.
GOLFY

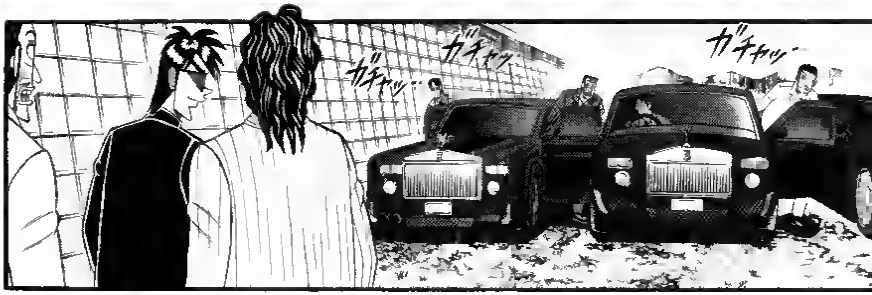

WHA!?
WE'RE DONE PLAYING.

WE'VE JUST BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE TO RAKE IN A HUGE FORTUNE,
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE GAMBLING WITH CHUMP CHANGE.

WE'LL BE HEADING FOR YAMANASHI RIGHT AWAY!

AFTER PACKING SOME THINGS,
SO PUT YOUR TILES AWAY.

Houoh
Fujiview Hills
Family Town
9AM
the
next
day.
ブロロロ…
IS WAIT FOR THE REST TO ARRIVE...
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO NOW,
THE PREPA-RATIONS ARE COMPLETE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH ALL THAT,
THANKS, I REALLY APPRECI-ATE IT.
BUT I BROUGHT EVERYTHING YOU ASKED FOR.


ガチャッ
ガチャッ
ガチャッ

I'LL ADMIT IT!
KIKI
YOU BEAT ME TO THE PUNCH!

I'LL CONCEDE THAT YOU WERE THE FIRST TO REALIZE THE MESSAGE REALLY REFERRED TO MT. FUJI'S SHADOW AT SUNRISE, ZERO!
YOU WON THAT ROUND!
BUT,
IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL STRUGGLING,
WITH THE NEXT PART OF THE MESSAGE.
SO OUR MATCH IS FAR FROM OVER! IT'S ONLY JUST BEGUN!
SORRY ABOUT THIS,
BUT I'VE ALREADY SOLVED THE NEXT STEP!
WHAT!?

NGH!
AND I'M JUST ABOUT TO EXPLAIN FOR EVE-RYBODY.
NOT AT ALL.
Y-YOU'RE LYING!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
NO! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU SAY IT!
ざわ…

WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY,

WHAT?
HUH?
IS WHAT KIJUROU,
WISHED FOR!
MY FATHER'S WISH?
ざわ…

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
FOR THE NEXT STEP,
WE ALL HAVE TO,
WORK TOGETHER TO FIND THE ANSWER
THAT'S WHAT,
KIJUROU HAD INTENDED WITH THIS ELABORATE TREASURE HUNT OF HIS...

3779...
IT'S A FAIRLY BIG NUMER.
I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ABOUT IT,
BUT I STILL HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT REFERRED TO...
UNTIL LAST NIGHT, THAT IS!
ざわ..
WHAT?
THE 4-DIGIT NUMBER IN THE MESSAGE,

IT CAME TO ME ALL OF A SUDDEN WHILE I WAS IN THE BATH HOUSE!
A BATH HOUSE?
IN THE CONTEXT OF CONSTRUCTION OR ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING,
FOR EXAMPLE,
IF TILES WITH THE DIMENSIONS OF 2CM X 2CM,
2
2
WERE NEEDED TO TILE A BATHROOM FLOOR JUST 2M X 2M LARGE,
SIMPLE MATHEMATICS SHOULD TELL YOU
3779 OR EVEN 4000,
ISN'T SUCH A BIG NUMBER.

OF COURSE IN REALITY, THINGS LIKE DRAINAGE HOLES AND SLIGHTLY UNEVEN JOINTS,
THAT YOU'D NEED 10,000 TILES!
BUT MY POINT IS,
WOULD COMPLICATE MATTERS...
OR EVEN A LARGER NUMBER LIKE 4000 CAN BE QUITE SMALL DEPENDING ON CONTEXT!
THAT 3779,
NOT A BATH HOUSE, BUT RATHER...
NO,
IMPLYING THAT THE TREASURE IS HIDDEN INSIDE SOME BATH HOUSE?
ARE YOU...

RIGHT HERE AT THE RETAINING WALL WHICH MAINTAINS THE LANDSCAPE FOR FUJIVIEW HILLS FAMILY TOWN!
バン!!
RIGHT HERE!
AH!
SHOULD BE THE 3779TH TILE!
IS THERE SOMETHING UNDER THIS?
THEN ...
T-THIS ONE?
THEN THE TILE MARKED WITH THE "X" RIGHT BY YOUR FEET,
IF YOU COUNT FROM THE LEFT,
1 11 21 31 41
10 20 30 40 50
AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS WALL IS MADE UP BY ROWS OF 10 TILES LINED UP NEATLY.
WHAT?

NGH!
SIR!
AND THE TREASURE OR PATH TO THE TREASURE WILL BE UNDER-NEATH...!?
MAYBE THIS TILE CAN BE REMOVED.
I'M...
RRGHH
UGH!
NGHHH!
AHHH!
I'M GOING TO MOVE THIS TILE!

I'M MOVING IT!
SIR!
ドゥ...
I'M-

THIS TILE WON'T BUDGE AT ALL!
UGHH!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, SIR!?
ARE...

WHAT A CROCK!
SOME THEORY YOU CAME UP WITH!

OF COURSE IT WON'T MOVE.
HA HA
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF!
IT DIDN'T EVEN MOVE A SINGLE INCH!

IT WOULDN'T EXACTLY BE SAFE IF SOMEONE COULD EASILY MOVE THE TILES OF A RETAINING WALL, AFTER ALL.
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THE TREASURE WAS UNDER-
NO, I ACTUALLY NEVER DID
IT WAS YOU WHO SAID THAT.
YOU JUMPED TO THE ASSUMPTION THAT SOMETHING WAS UNDERNEATH THE TILE.
ALL I SAID WAS THAT THE X-MARKED TILE WAS THE 3779TH ONE FROM THE LEFT.
NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.
UGH..
I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT IT.
HUH?
NEVERTHELESS, PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU,
EVEN THOUGH THE TILE CAN'T BE MOVED,

AHH!
I DON'T SEE ANY-
A CLOSER LOOK?
3789?
WHAT!?
ZERO!
IS THE 3779TH ONE FROM THE LEFT.
I'M 100% SURE THAT THAT TILE,
NO, I COUNTED CORRECTLY.
THIS IS TILE #3789, NOT #3779!
YOU MUST HAVE COUNTED WRONG!
BUT...!

THEN WHAT'S THIS 3789 FOR?
THE NUMBER THERE,
IS TELLING US WHICH TILE WE SHOULD CHECK NEXT.
AND THE 3789TH TILE FROM THE LEFT,
WOULD BE JUST ONE TILE TO THE RIGHT OF THE 3779TH TILE.
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.
AHH!
THIS ONE HAS 3799 WRITTEN ON IT!
SO THAT'D BE THE NEXT TILE OVER...
ざわ・・
AHH!
IT'S ANOTHER NUMBER!

IF YOU KEEP MARKING ALL THE TILES WHOSE NUMBERS ARE MENTIONED,
STARTING FROM TILE #3779,
MY GUESS IS THAT IT'LL FORM A SECRET MESSAGE
WHAT'D I SAY?
3883!

I HAVE WITH ME HERE,
RIGHT!
NAOKI, BRING OUT THE PLASTIC BOARDS.

LIKE SO.
DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE AND BLACK PLASTIC BOARDS,
THAT WE CAN USE TO STICK ON THE TILES,
ざわ・・

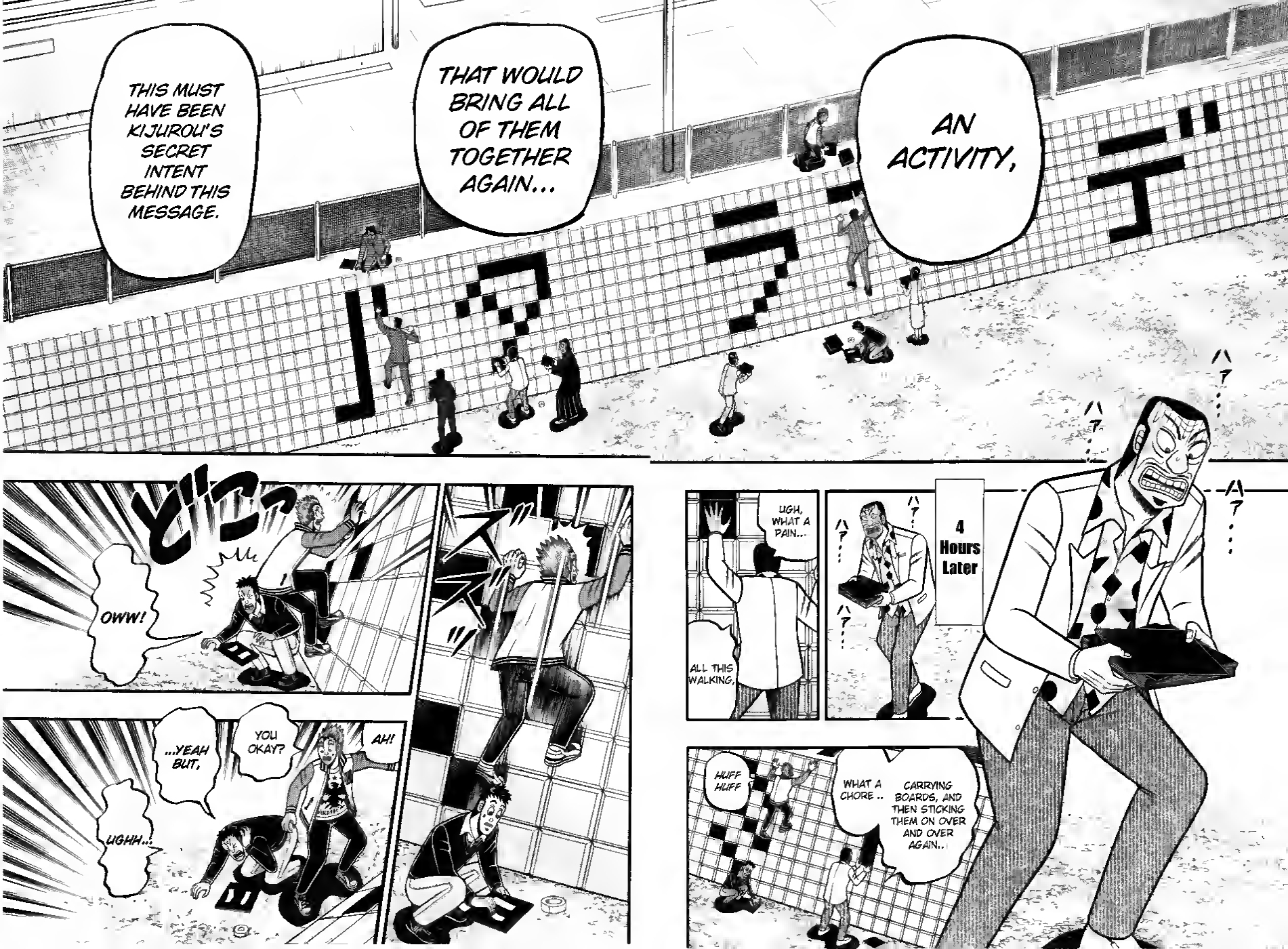
IS UP THERE.
THE FIRST 3 TILES ARE ALL NEXT TO EACH OTHER, BUT TILE #3833,
SO LET'S DIVIDE OURSELVES UP INTO THOSE WHO'LL MARK TILES IN THE BOTTOM-HALF AND THE UPPER-HALF.
TATSUKI,
THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FAIR NUMBER OF TILES NEAR THE TOP THAT WE'LL HAVE TO MARK,
NAOKI, CAN YOU CLIMB UP?
SURE THING.
SORRY,
I'M THE BRAINS HERE, NOT THE BRAWNS! I'M NOT GOING TO CLIMB UP AND-
WHAAAA?
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THE UPPER TILES. SO CLIMB UP WITH SOME BOARDS!
OH...
YOU AS WELL, SIR.
OK!
BUT EVERYONE HAS TO HELP OUT! YOU TOO, MA'AM!

NEXT IS 3852!
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
TAKE THESE TILES, MR. OKAJIMA.
NEXT IS 3832!
R-RIGHT..
THAT SHOULD DO IT!
ALRIGHT,
3793, 3803, 3813!
3783!
HUH?
WHAT?

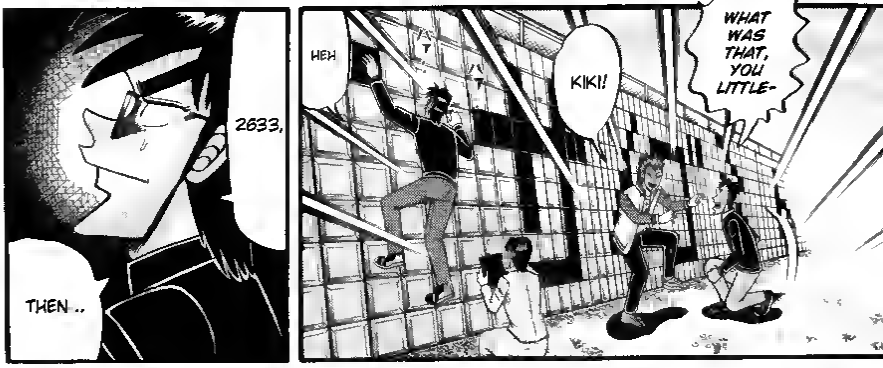
DE (デ)?
HUH?
WHAT'S "DE" SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FIGURE OUT THE MESSAGE FROM ONE LETTER?
THE NEXT TILE'S 3502!
THAT'S PRETTY FAR AWAY FROM HERE
3502...?
どどぉーっ
THAT'S TO THE LEFT!
THIS WAY!

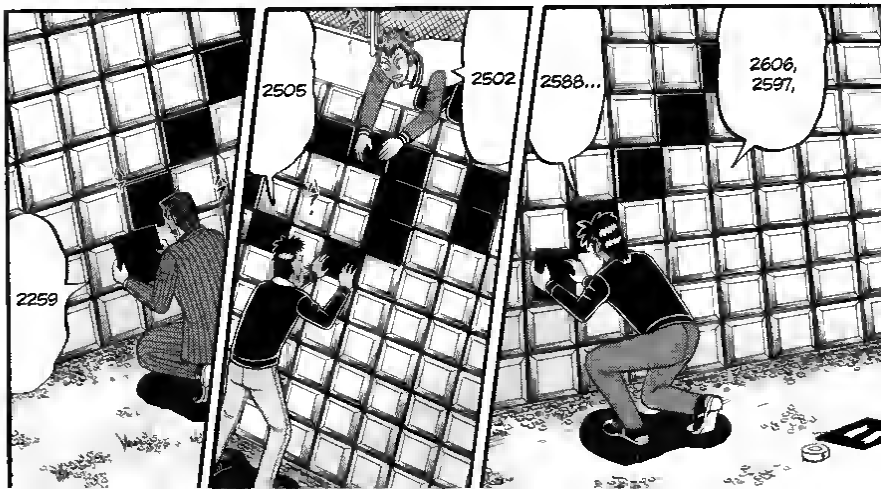
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, BROTHER?
OWW!
ペタッ
...I'M FINE!
ヨロ...
JUST WHAT WAS HE THINKING,
DAMN THAT CRAZY FATHER OF OURS!
WHA-
I DON'T KNOW, I THINK IT'S FUN!
WHEN MAKING THESE ELABORATE HOOPS FOR US TO JUMP THROUGH...
ヨロ...
OH?
HMPH!
ヨロ...
.....

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A REST.
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
HM?
YOU OKAY!?
POPS!
HOW THE HELL'S ANY OF THIS FUN!?
HUH?
TO HAVE HIS DESCEN-DANTS,
IN ORDER TO WORK OUT HIS CODE
COOPERATE,


THIS MUST HAVE BEEN KIJUROU'S SECRET INTENT BEHIND THIS MESSAGE.
THAT WOULD BRING ALL OF THEM TOGETHER AGAIN...
AN ACTIVITY,
ドコ
OWW!
...YEAH BUT,
YOU OKAY?
AH!
UGHH...
UGH, WHAT A PAIN...
ALL THIS WALKING,
4 Hours Later
HUFF HUFF
WHAT A CHORE..
CARRYING BOARDS, AND THEN STICKING THEM ON OVER AND OVER AGAIN..

I MEAN, IF IT WERE MY HEAD THAT GOT INJURED, IT'D BE A HUGE LOSS FOR ALL OF HUMANITY
KIKI!
OWW..
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU HIT MY HEAD!
WHA?
IT'S A GOOD THING IT WAS YOUR HEAD THAT WAS HURT THOUGH.

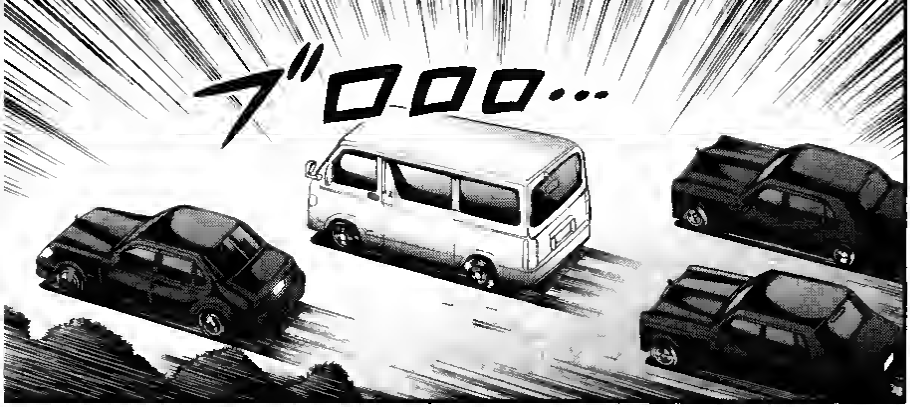

2633,
THEN ..
HEH
KIKI!
WHAT WAS THAT, YOU LITTLE-

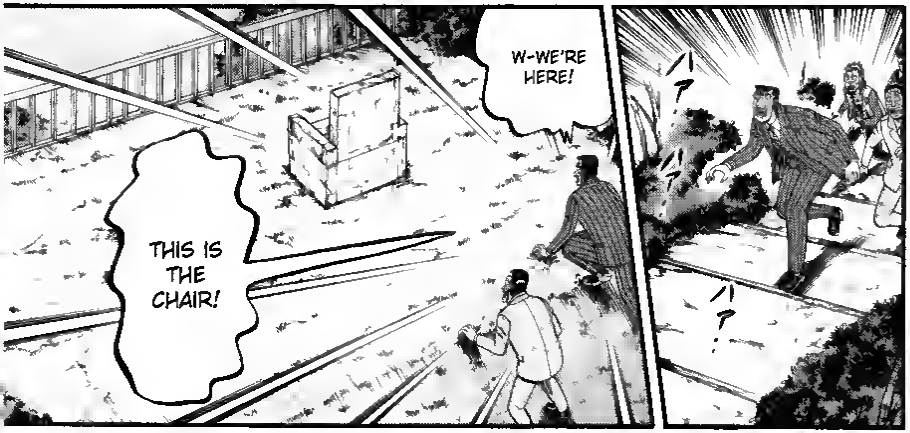

2259
2505
2502
2588...
2606,
2597,

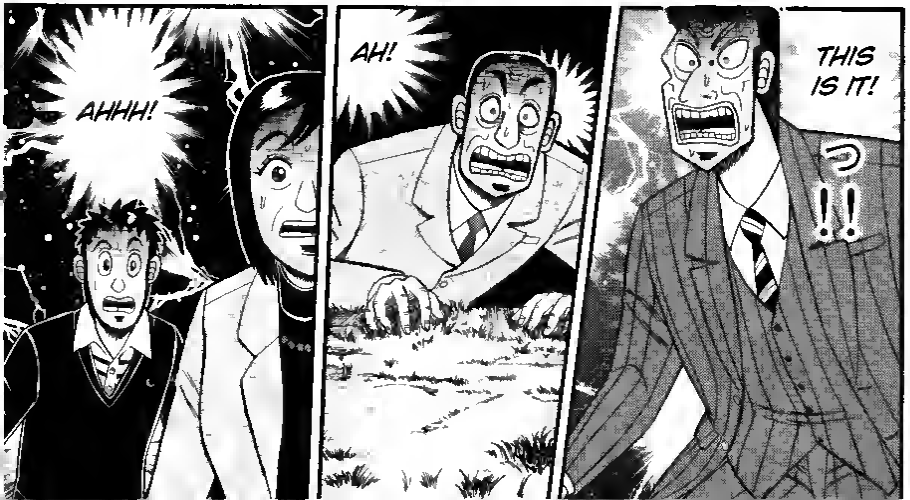
HUH?
END
WHERE'S THE NEXT NUMBER?
WHAT'S NEXT?
END
END...?
YES!
WOO HOO! DONE AT LAST!
OHH!
THE END! WE'RE DONE!
SO...
SIR!
R... RIGHT!

PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU!
I.. I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT AT ALL. WE'RE TOO CLOSE.
HUH...
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
WHAT AM I LOOKING AT?
WE SHOULD HEAD TO KIJUROU'S CHAIR!

HURRY!!
OF COURSE!
わっ
AHH!
WE CAN GET A WIDE, SCENIC VIEW OF HERE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, DON'T YOU?
WHAT?
FROM THERE,


ブロロロ…

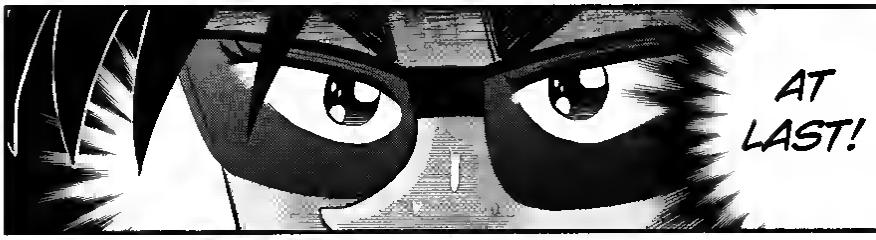

W-WE'RE HERE!
THIS IS THE CHAIR!
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ!


AHHH!
AH!
THIS IS IT!
!!

ブッダン
サイゴ
トルネカラメマデ
ブッダン
サイゴ
トルネ
AT...
HUH?
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP...

TREASURE SWAMP!?
!
THE...
AHHH!
AHH!
AHHH! IT MUST REFER TO THAT PLACE!
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES THE BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS...

ざわ…
AAHHH!


AT LAST!

WE'VE REACHED THE FINAL STAGE!
SHOULD BE AT THIS TREASURE SWAMP...!
KIJUROU HIMSELF,
THIS SHOULD BE KIJUROU'S FINAL MESSAGE...
ざわ…
ざわ

AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS

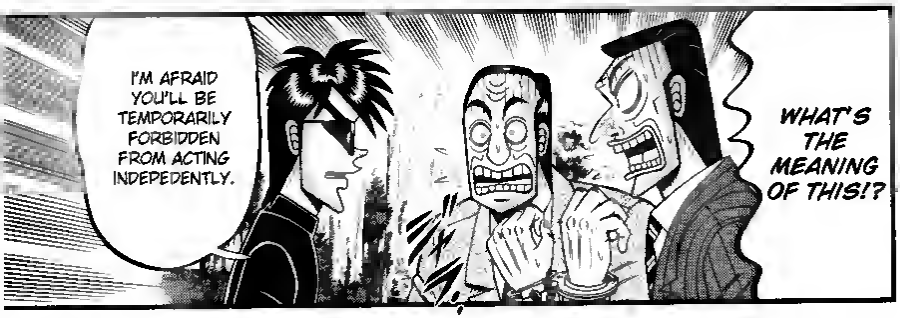
Chapter 55 Progress

JUST WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I KNOW!
I KNOW THE SWAMP HE'S TALKING ABOUT!
THAT FAMOUS SWAMP OF THE HOUJO CLAN...!
I REMEMBER KIJUROU MENTIONING,
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIR?
ME TOO!
OF COURSE I KNOW IT TOO!
ざわ・・ざわ・・
WELL?
I KNOW THE PLACE!
I...
AHH!

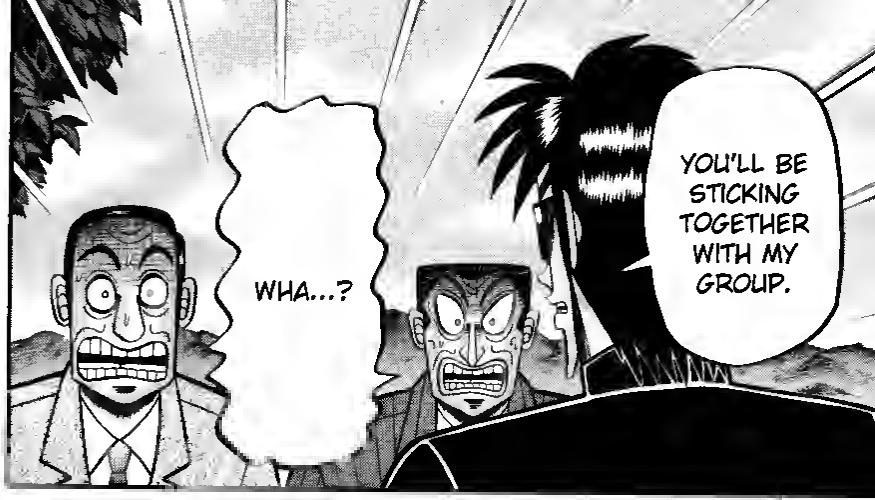
AT A RESORT IN NAGANO,
THERE'S A CERTAIN SWAMP IN A NEARBY FOREST,
THAT'S NICKNAMED THE TREASURE SWAMP...
I SEE
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
THEN THIS SHOULD INDEED BE THE TRUE MESSAGE LEFT BY KIJUROU,
INTENDED TO BE ONLY DECIPHERED BY THOSE CLOSE TO HIM,
SUCH AS HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AND TRUSTED EMPLOYEE, DIRECTOR OKAJIMA.

I'M SURE THAT AT THIS TREASURE SWAMP OR AT LEAST, ITS VICINITIES,
ON LEAVING HIS FORTUNES TO BE FOUND BY SOME STRANGER.
IS THE PLACE WHERE HIS TREASURE WAS HIDDEN
THAT KIJUROU NEVER INTENDED,
FROM THIS, IT SEEMS VERY CLEAR,
WE SHOULD START MAKING OUR WAY TO THIS TREASURE SWAMP!
AS FOR US,
NO PRO-BLEM.
WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE MESSAGE SO IT'S NO LONGER NEEDED.
ITAKURA, I KNOW IT'S QUITE TROUBLESOME BUT MAY I ASK YOU TO REMOVE ALL THE BLACK PLASTIC BOARDS?
WHAT FOR?
TO COME HERE FOR A SECOND?
COULD I ASK YOU TWO,
BUT BEFORE THAT...
HUH?
?
PLEASE SHOW ME YOUR HANDS

WHA!
AH!

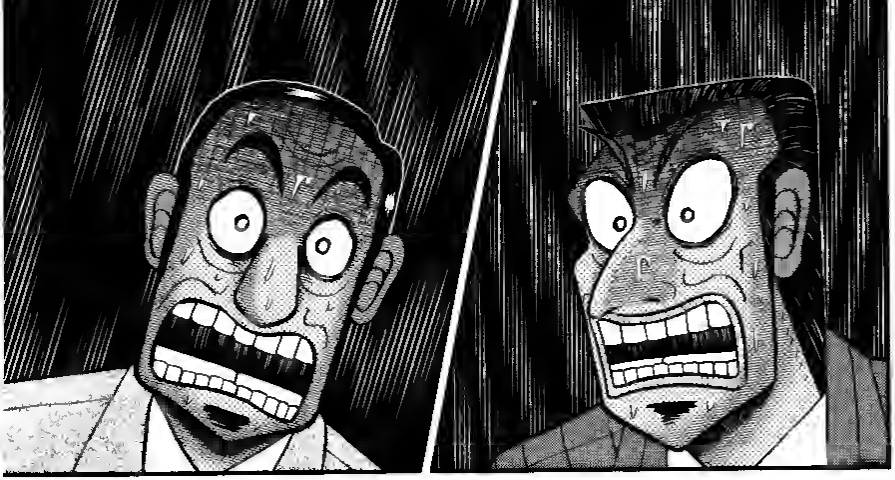

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL BE TEMPORARILY FORBIDDEN FROM ACTING INDEPEDENTLY.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?

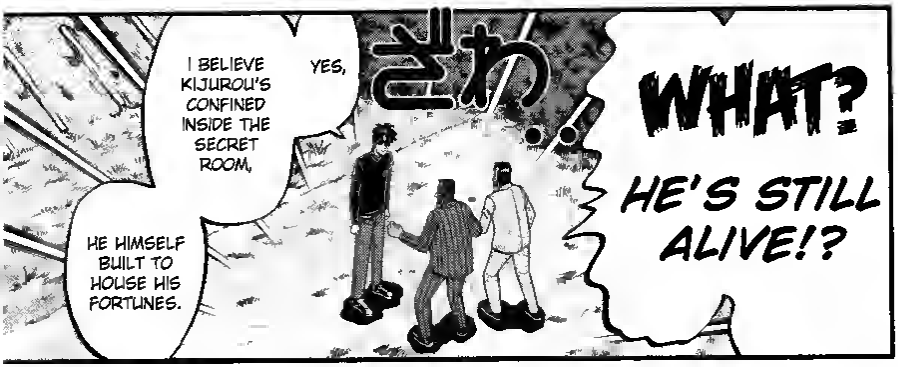
BUT UNTIL WE REACH THAT RESORT AT NAGANO,
I OF COURSE APOLO-GIZE,
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHAT!

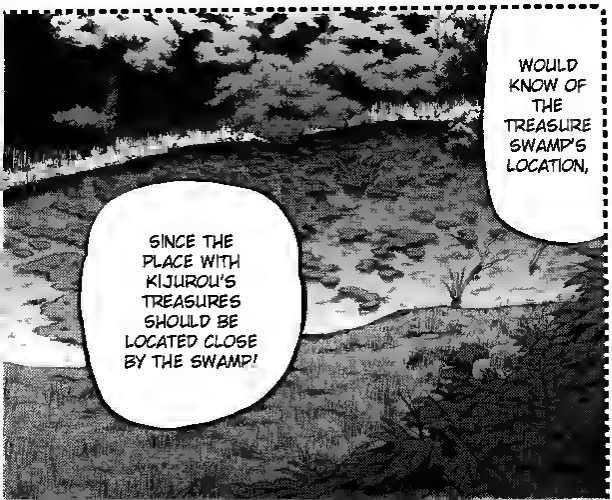

YOU'LL BE STICKING TOGETHER WITH MY GROUP.
WHA...?

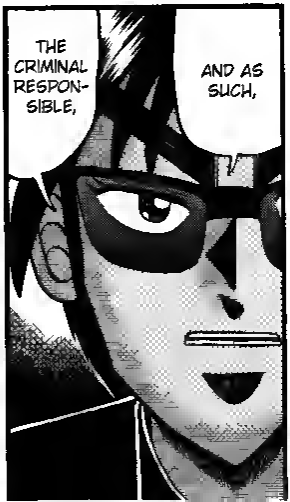
I'VE DELIBERATELY KEPT SECRET ABOUT THIS UNTIL NOW BUT,
COM-PLETELY OUTTA YOUR MIND!?
ARE YOU...

KIJUROU IS STILL ALIVE!
ACCORD-ING TO MY THEORY,




YES,
I BELIEVE KIJUROU'S CONFINED INSIDE THE SECRET ROOM,
HE HIMSELF BUILT TO HOUSE HIS FORTUNES.
ざわ..
WHAT?
HE'S STILL ALIVE!?


WOULD KNOW OF THE TREASURE SWAMP'S LOCATION,
SINCE THE PLACE WITH KIJUROU'S TREASURES SHOULD BE LOCATED CLOSE BY THE SWAMP!


THE CRIMINAL RESPON-SIBLE,
AND AS SUCH,

I HIGHLY DOUBT THE ONE WHO LOCKED KIJUROU UP WOULD BE UNAWARE OF THE SWAMP'S EXISTENCE.
IN SHORT,
SINCE YOU TWO ARE AWARE OF THE SWAMP,
YOU'RE POSSIBLE SUSPECTS.
WHAT!

AND IT'D BE ABSURD TO HAVE YOU TWO SUSPECTS RUN AROUND AND ACT UNSUPERVISED.
AFTER ALL,
YOU COULD EASILY CONTACT YOUR PARTNER TO MOVE KIJUROU TO ANOTHER PLACE...
WAIT, HOLD ON!

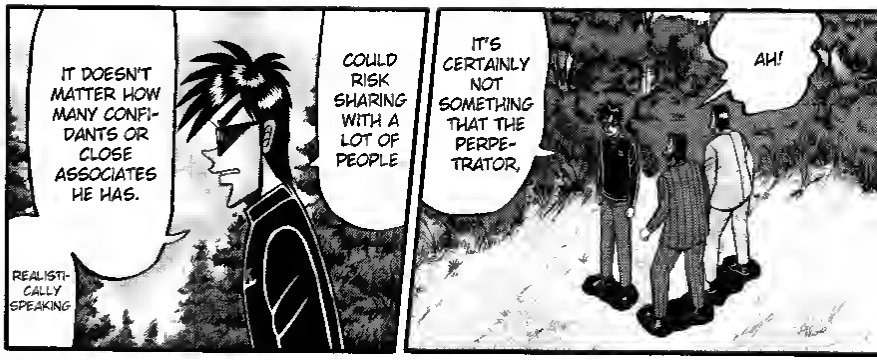
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,
HANDCUFFING US ISN'T GOING TO HELP AT ALL!
I BEG YOUR PARDON?

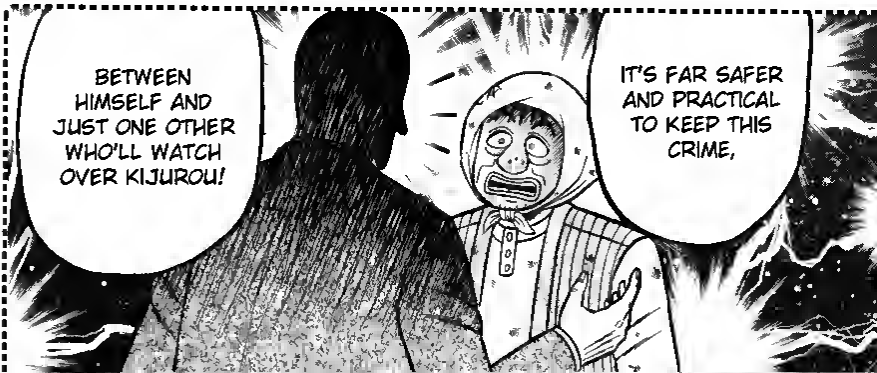
EVEN IF WE DON'T OVERTLY DO ANYTHING,
ONE OF OUR MEN,
OKAJIMA AND I HAVE PLENTY OF SUBORDINATES!
THINK ABOUT IT!

PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU,
AND RELOCATE HIM!
COULD GRASP OUR CURRENT SITUATION AND MAKE THE CALL HIMSELF TO CONTACT THE PERSON OVERSEEING KIJUROU,

NO MATTER THE CIRCUM-STANCES,
TO CONFINE A PERSON AGAINST HIS WILL FOR 3 YEARS,
WHY?
YOU NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT!

IS A SERIOUS CRIME!


AH!
IT'S CERTAINLY NOT SOMETHING THAT THE PERPE-TRATOR,
COULD RISK SHARING WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY CONFI-DANTS OR CLOSE ASSOCIATES HE HAS.
REALISTI-CALLY SPEAKING

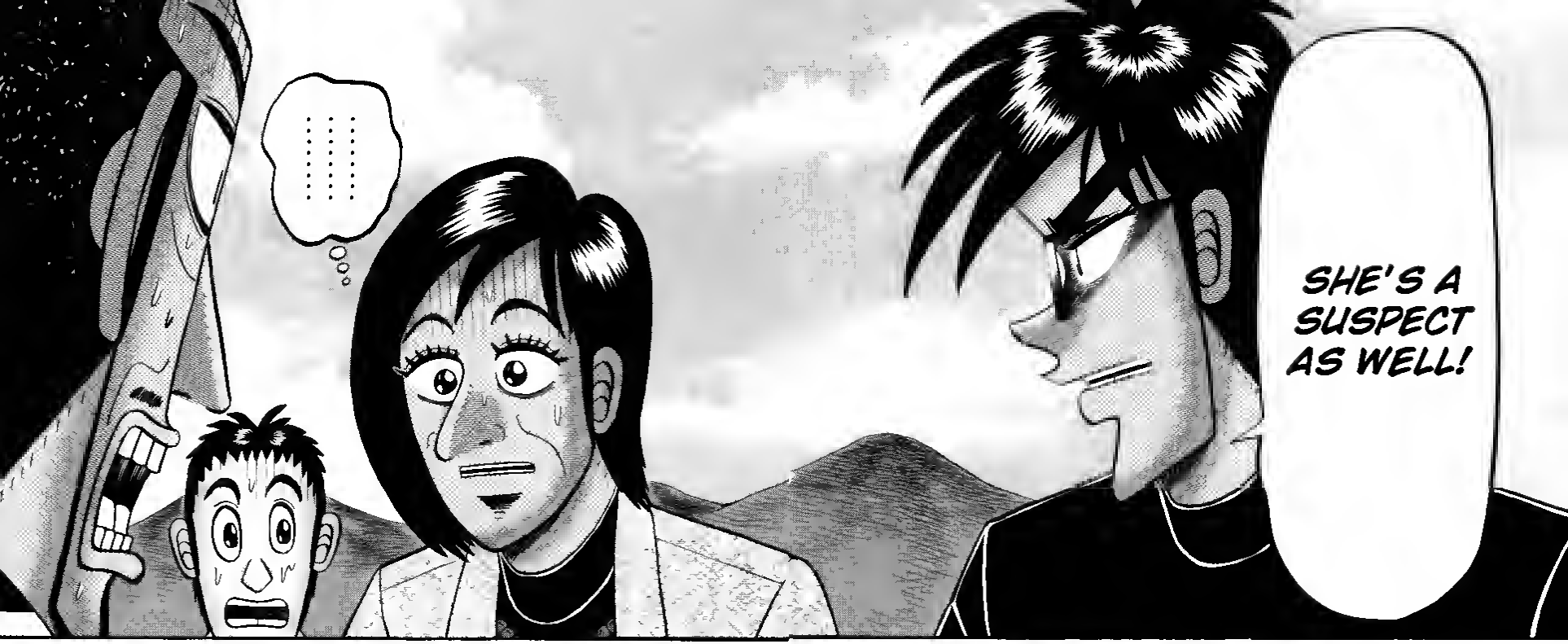

IT'S FAR SAFER AND PRACTICAL TO KEEP THIS CRIME,
BETWEEN HIMSELF AND JUST ONE OTHER WHO'LL WATCH OVER KIJUROU!

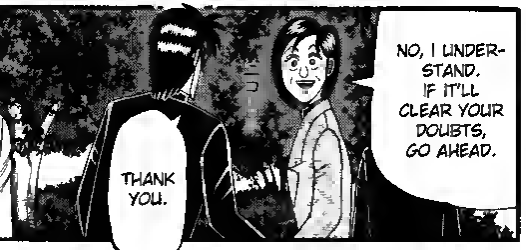
THAT'S WHY,
RESTRAIN-ING JUST THE POSSIBLE RING-LEADERS OF THIS CRIME,
IS ENOUGH!
NGH!

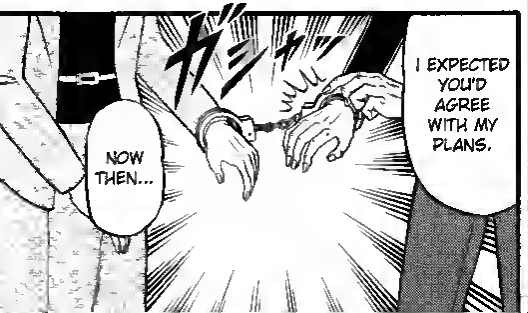
NOW THEN, WE SHOULD GET GOING.
OH RIGHT,
MS. SAWAKO
YES?

カチャ

WHAT?
HUH?
ZERO!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO THE MADAME!
MS. SAWAKO,
IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO HAD KNOWN ABOUT THIS TREASURE SWAMP,
WHICH MEANS...


SHE'S A SUSPECT AS WELL!


NO, I UNDERSTAND. IF IT'LL CLEAR YOUR DOUBTS, GO AHEAD.
THANK YOU.


I EXPECTED YOU'D AGREE WITH MY PLANS.
NOW THEN...

MA'AM, DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO BEING HANDCUFFED?
I CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS.

THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD ACTUALLY BE THE CRIMINAL!
ARE YOU CRAZY!?
I'M AFRAID,

ブロロロ…
LET'S GO!
YES, I MIGHT BE WRONG ABOUT ALL THIS,
Y-YOU ADMIT IT WILL-INGLY!?
WHA-
OH, I'VE ACCOUNTED FOR THAT TOO. YES, THAT SCENARIO IS POSSIBLE AS WELL.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO HOLD BACK JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT IFS!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
ZERO!
……
HM?
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO IF IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE WRONG AND NONE OF US HERE IS THE CRIMINAL!?
AFTER GOING ALL THE WAY TO BOTHER HANDCUFF-ING US,

WE'RE ALMOST THERE AT THE SECRET ROOM WHERE KIJUROU'S BEING CONFINED!
AND WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE EVEN THE SMALLEST CHANCE FOR THE CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE!
WE HAVE TO SAVE KIJUROU AND CATCH THE ONES RESPON-SIBLE.
BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

Chapter 56 Reminiscing
ブロロロ…
Zero and the gang,
Now heod for Nagano!
Will be...
Hojo Ville Resort,
At the Houoh Corp's,
The final stage!

As referred by the secret message!
The "treasure swamp,"
MAY I ASK...
ZERO,

REST ASSURED, MA'AM,
I'LL UNDO THESE HANDCUFFS ONCE WE ARRIVE AT THE RESORT.
REALLY?
HOW LONG WILL WE STAY LIKE THIS?
OH, THAT'S GREAT! ♡
SO PLEASE BEAR WITH IT FOR JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
HM?
THEN WHAT THE HELL'S THE POINT OF ALL THIS!?

SO THAT WHEN WE FINALLY FIND HIS SECRET ROOM,
COULD SECRETLY SNEAK OFF AT NIGHT TO MOVE MY FATHER TO ANOTHER PLACE,
THEN ONE OF US,
IF YOU'RE GOING TO FREE US ONCE WE GET THERE,

HAHA,
THERE'LL BE NO ONE THERE!

WE'RE GOING TO A RESORT FULL OF PEOPLE.
IT'S TOO RISKY, YOU SEE.
WHA?
AND WITH THE REST OF US THERE TOO,
I HIGHLY DOUBT,
THE CHANCES OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING

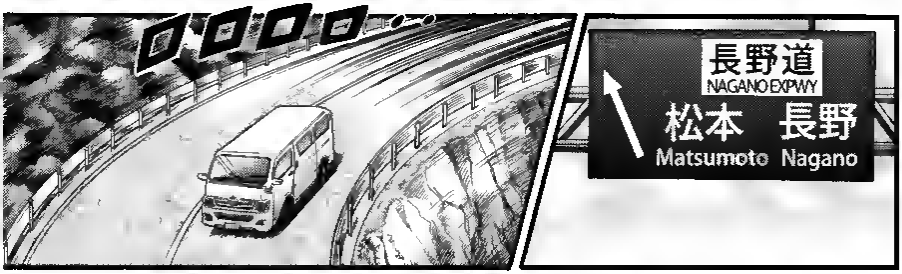
EVEN IF THE CRIMINAL TRIED TO SNEAK KIJUROU OFF AT NIGHT,
THE RISK OF BEING SPOTTED,
IS TOO DANGER-OUS!

A SINGLE EYEWIT-NESS,
AND THEY'D BE CAUGHT RED-HANDED,
WITH NO ROOM FOR EXCUSES!

NO SANE PERSON WOULD RISK SUCH A DANGEROUS THING!
ESPE-CIALLY SINCE,
IF AND WHEN WE RESCUE KIJUROU,
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE,
THAT KIJUROU HAS NO IDEA,
ON WHO THE CRIMI-NALS ARE!

AND SO,
SCOT-FREE...
THE CRIMINALS GETTING AWAY,
AND SO THE CASE WOULD END WITH THE TRUTH STILL SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
THERE'S NO REASON,
.....
WHY THE CRIMINAL WOULD TRY TO RELOCATE KIJURO AND PUT HIMSELF AT RISK!
.....
.....
I SEE...

シャアー

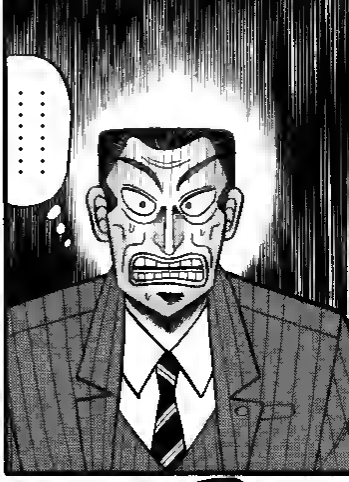

ロロロロ…
長野道
NAGANO EXPWY
松本 長野
Matsumoto Nagano

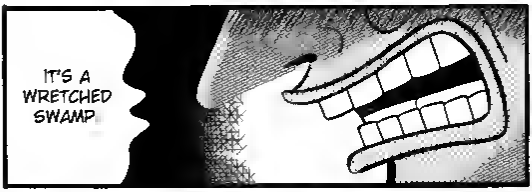
WHAT KIND OF PLACE,

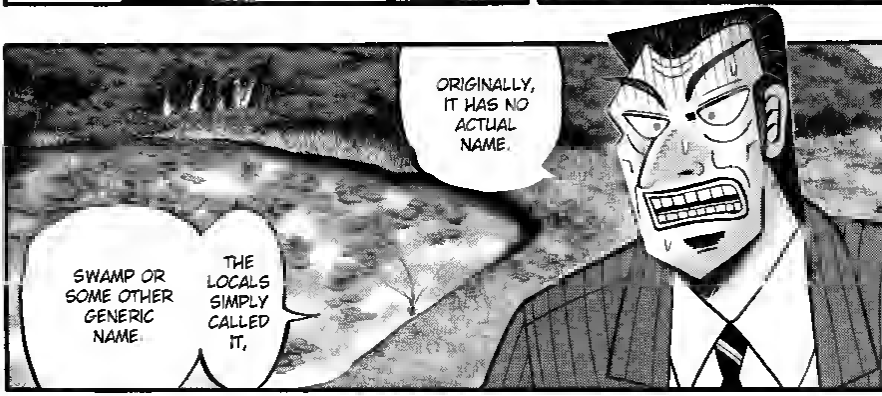
IS THIS TREASURE SWAMP?

PRESI-DENT TAKA-MITSU...

HM?
IT'S SUPPOSEDLY A BOTTOMLESS SWAMP.
WELL...


.....


IT'S A WRETCHED SWAMP.

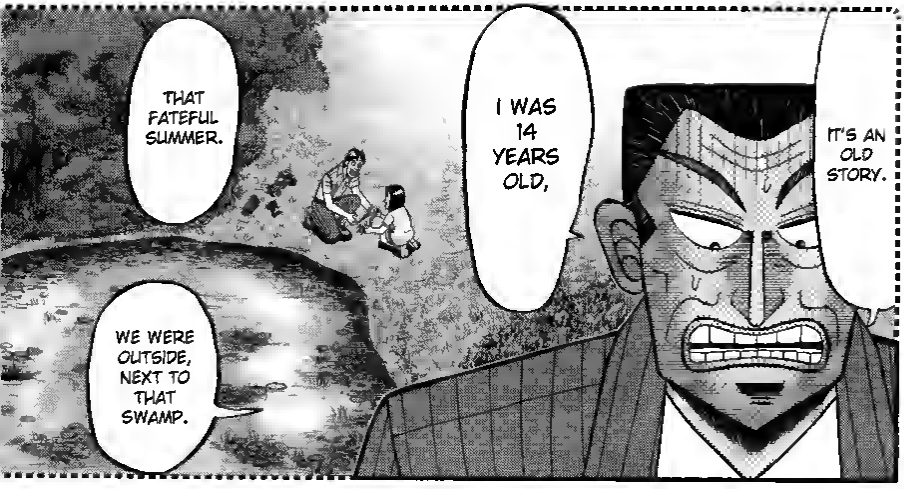

ORIGINALLY, IT HAS NO ACTUAL NAME.
THE LOCALS SIMPLY CALLED IT,
SWAMP OR SOME OTHER GENERIC NAME.

A BOTTOMLESS SWAMP, HUH...

.....
IT WAS MY FATHER WHO GAVE IT THE NAME, "TREASURE SWAMP."

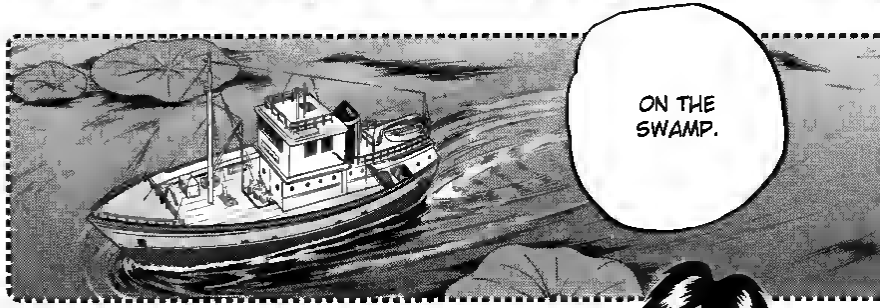
.....

.....
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME IN DETAIL,
WHY YOUR FATHER GAVE IT THAT NAME?
HUH?
AND WHY WAS THAT?


THAT FATEFUL SUMMER.
WE WERE OUTSIDE, NEXT TO THAT SWAMP.
I WAS 14 YEARS OLD,
IT'S AN OLD STORY.

AND WHEN I TURNED AROUND...
I HAD MY BACK TURNED TO HER FOR A MOMENT,
OR RATHER, PLAYING WITH...
BY WE, I MEAN MY THEN 3 YEAR-OLD SISTER SAWAKO, WHO I WAS BABYSITTING--

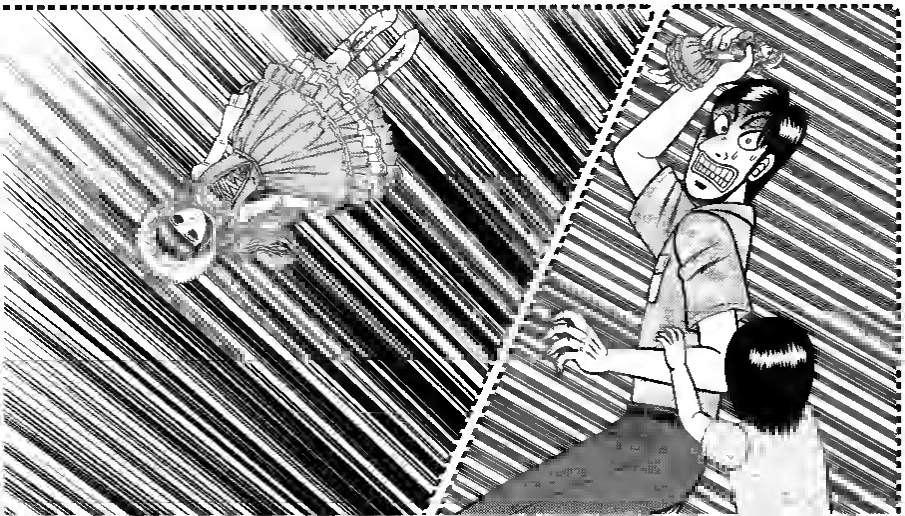
SHE HAD TAKEN MY FAVOURITE TOY-BOAT,
AND PUT IT AFLOAT,


ON THE SWAMP.

WHEN I HAD REALIZED WHAT SHE'D DONE,
THE BOAT HAD ALREADY FLOATED DOWN TO THE MIDDLE OF THE SWAMP,
MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RETRIEVE IT.

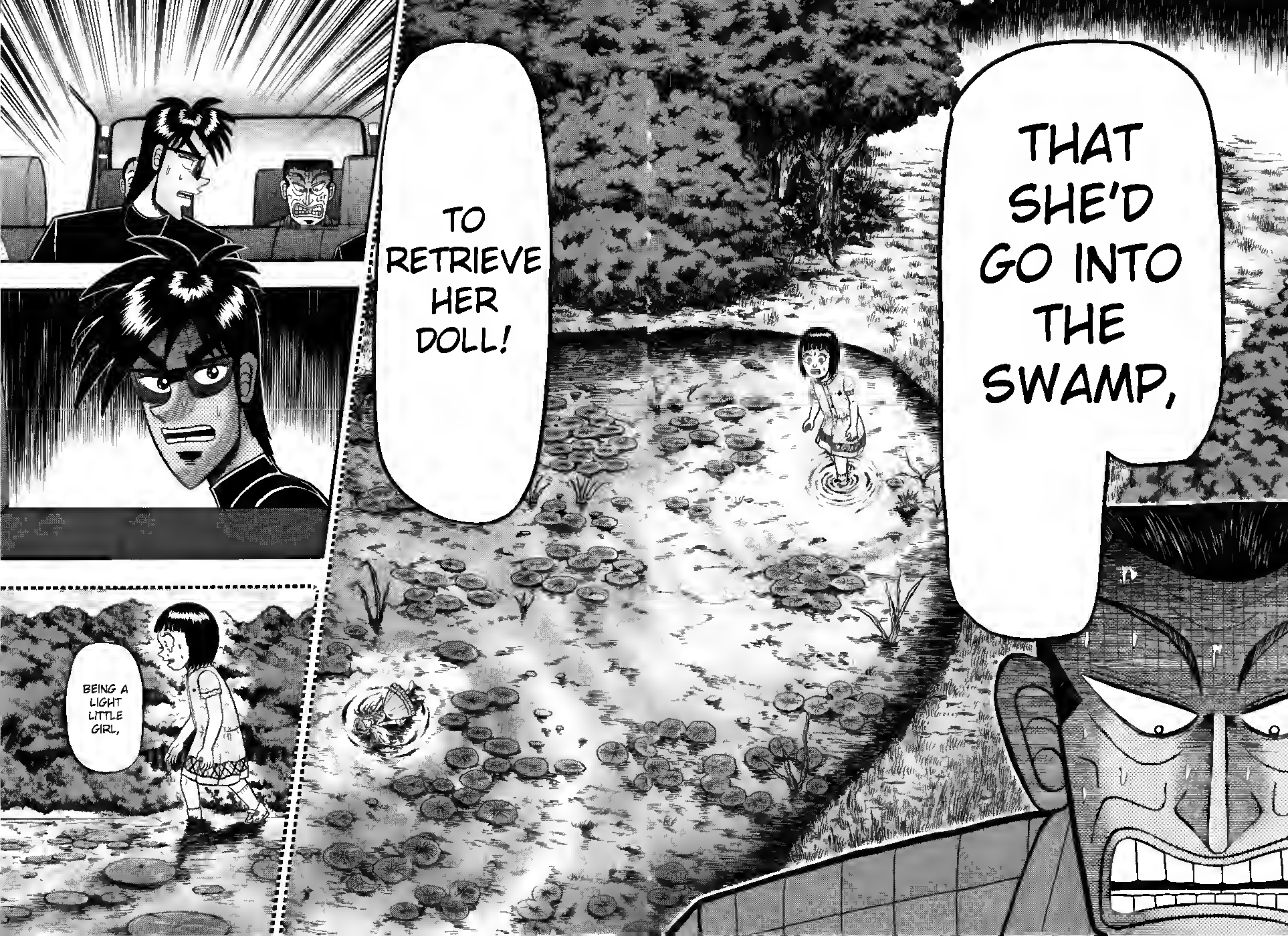
IF THIS WERE A NORMAL SWAMP,
I WOULD HAVE GONE IN TO GET MY BOAT BACK,
BUT KNOWING HOW DEEP THIS SWAMP SUPPOSEDLY WAS,

I COULD ONLY TAKE ONE STEP IN,
BEFORE FREEZING FROM FEAR!
IN ANGER,
I THEN TOOK SAWAKO'S DOLL,

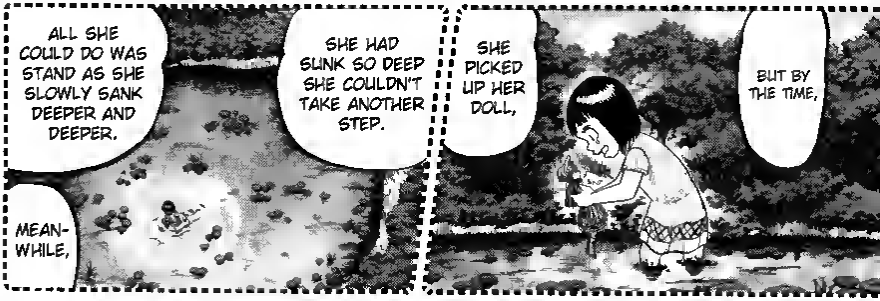


AND THREW IT INTO THE SWAMP!
I THEN PACKED MY TOYS,
IGNORING MY CRYING SISTER,

.....
LEAVING MY LITTLE SISTER BEHIND!
AND HEADED HOME,
THE THOUGHT OF HOW IRRE-SPONSIBLE THAT WAS NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND
THAT'S WHY,
MY FATHER HAD WARNED HER TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO NEVER GO IN THE SWAMP.
ESPE-CIALLY SINCE,
I NEVER ACTUALLY THOUGHT...


THAT SHE'D GO INTO THE SWAMP,
TO RETRIEVE HER DOLL!
BEING A LIGHT LITTLE GIRL,

SHE MANAGED TO WALK FAR ENOUGH,
TO REACH HER DOLL!


BUT BY THE TIME,
SHE PICKED UP HER DOLL,
SHE HAD SUNK SO DEEP SHE COULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP.
ALL SHE COULD DO WAS STAND AS SHE SLOWLY SANK DEEPER AND DEEPER.
MEAN-WHILE,

I WAS BACK IN MY ROOM,
LYING DOWN,
COM-PLETELY OBLIVI-OUS...

TO THE DANGER MY SISTER WAS IN!
IF ON THAT DAY,
THINGS HAD STAYED LIKE THAT,
FOR EVEN 3 OR 5 MORE MINUTES..

ゲバレン
YOU SEE, MY FATHER HAD ARRIVED IN TIME,
ゲバレン
AND JUMPED INSIDE,
TO GRAB SAWAKO AND TOSS HER TO A NEARBY BUSH,
ゲバサバ
TO SAVE HER LIFE!
親父
MY FATHER WOULD'VE BEEN THE ONE TO DIE!
た!!

MY FATHER WAS NOW TRAPPED IN THE SWAMP!
ズブ…
BUT IN DOING SO...
ズブ…
ズブ…
あぁ〜〜ん!!
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
AND HE QUICKLY BEGAN TO SINK DEEPER AND DEEPER!

ビクッ
SAWAKO!
STOP CRYING,
AND LISTEN TO ME CARE-FULLY!
GO FIND YOUR BROTHER,
AND BRING HIM HERE IMMEDIATELY!
HE'S PROBABLY IN HIS ROOM RIGHT NOW!

QUICKLY!
QUICKLY, SAWAKO, QUICKLY!
YOU HAVE TO CALL YOUR BROTHER HERE!

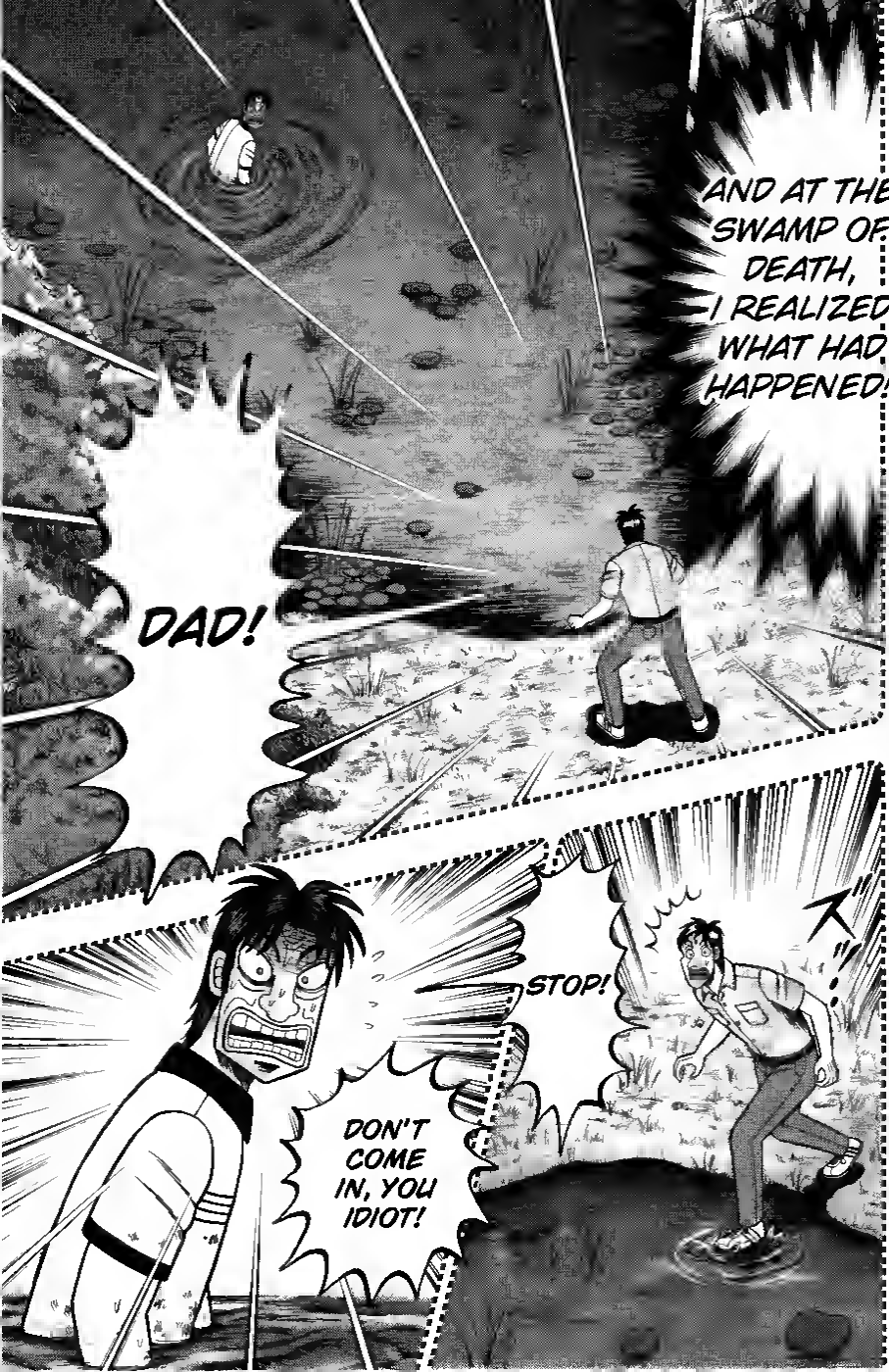
Chapter 57 Rescue

ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
……
……

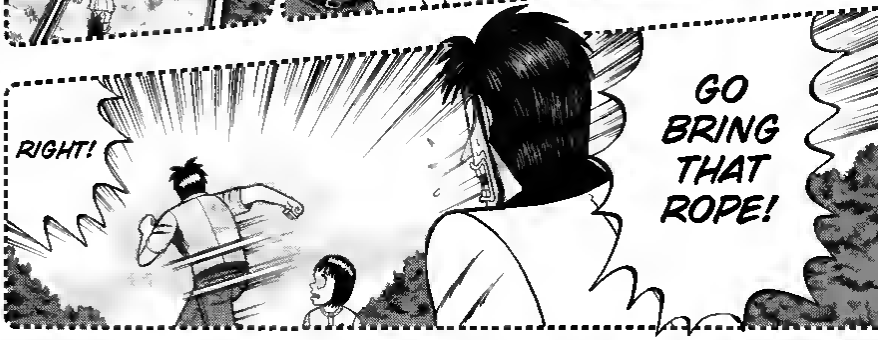
I IMAGINED SOMETHING TRULY TERRIBLE,
WHEN I NOTICED HOW PANICKED SHE WAS,
BUT THEN,
SINCE SHE WAS CRYING HYSTERICALLY,
AT FIRST, I WAS WONDERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED,

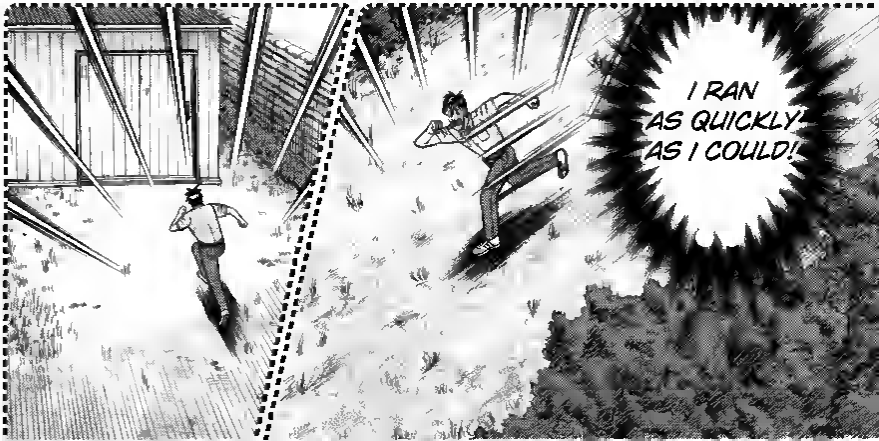
HAD HAPPENED,

SO I RAN BACK TO THE SWAMP WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING THE REAL REASON!

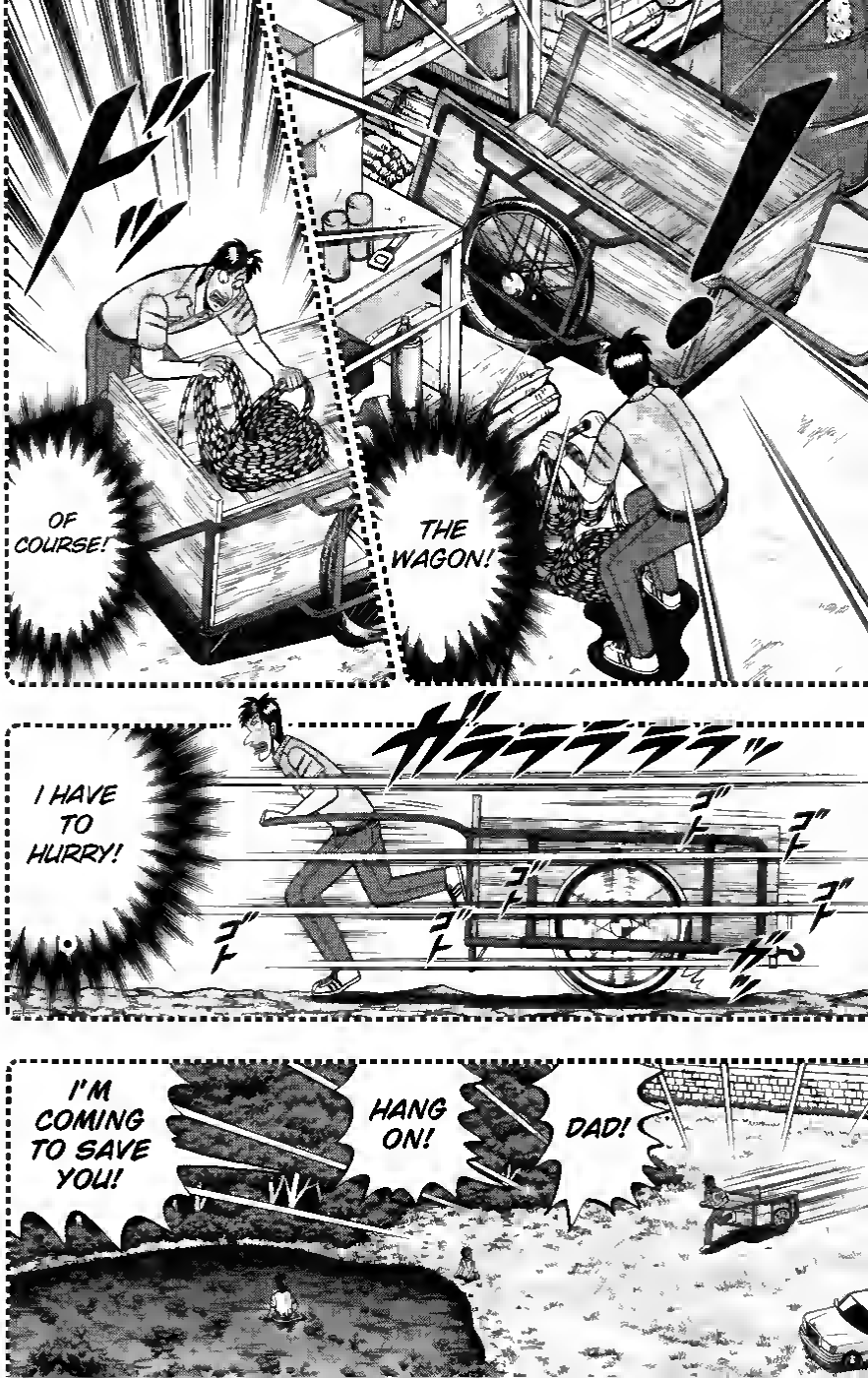

AND AT THE SWAMP OF DEATH, I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED!
DAD!
STOP!
!!
DON'T COME IN, YOU IDIOT!

THERE'S A ROPE IN A SHACK NEAR HERE I'VE BEEN PLANNING ON USING TO MAKE A FENCE AROUND THIS SWAMP!
YOU'LL JUST GET YOURSELF STUCK TOO! USE YOUR DAMN HEAD!
SO GO NOW!


RIGHT!
GO BRING THAT ROPE!


I RAN AS QUICKLY AS I COULD!

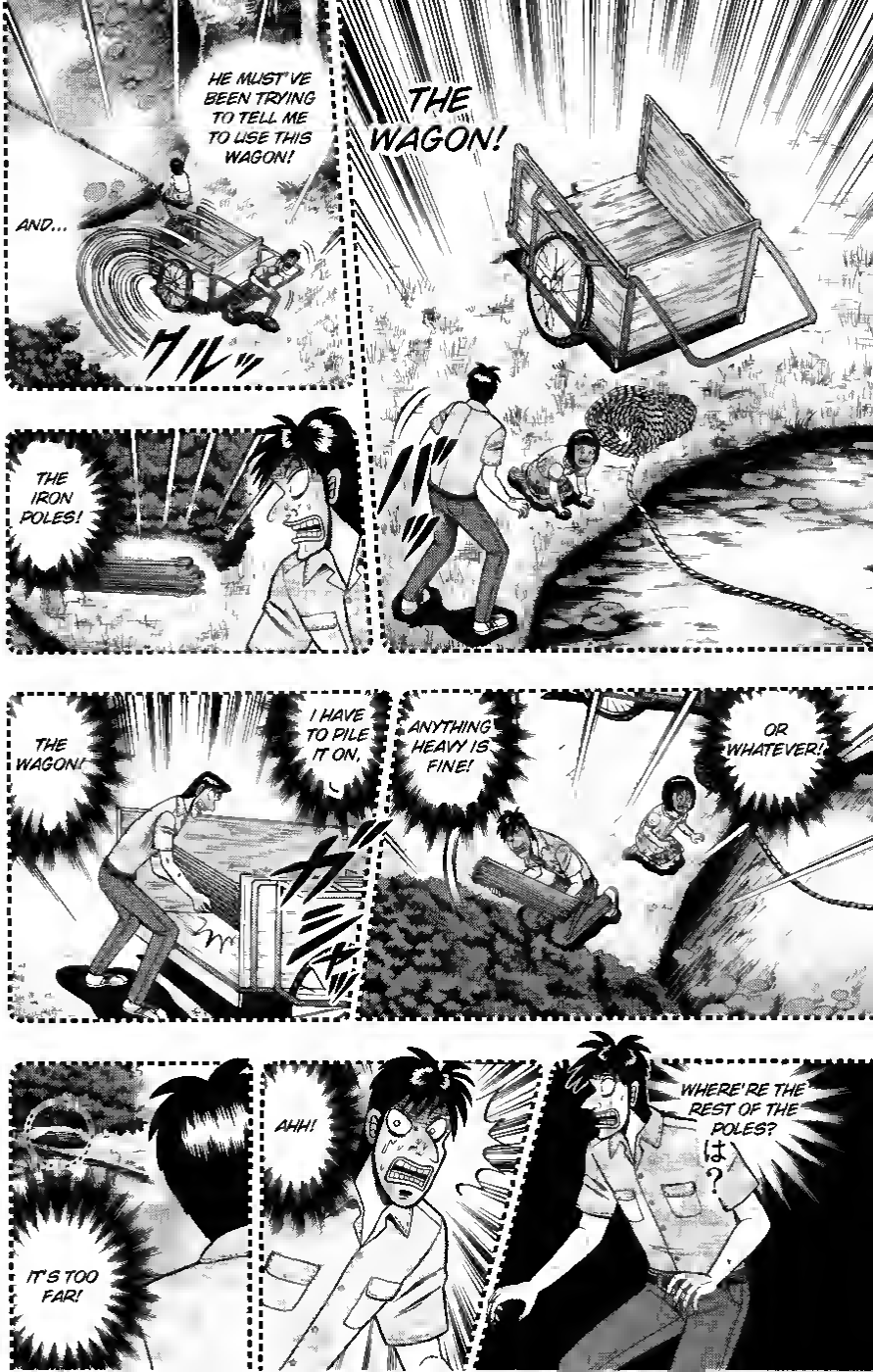
WHERE?
W...
WHERE IS IT!?
THERE IT IS!
AHH!
IT'S TOO HARD TO CARRY WITH MY HANDS!
DAMN IT!
NGH!


ドゴ
OF COURSE!
THE WAGON!
I HAVE TO HURRY!
ガラララララッ
ゴト
ゴト
ゴト
ゴト
ゴト
ガッ
I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!
HANG ON!
DAD!

GOOD, THE ROPE REACHED HIM!
クルクル
クル
DAMN IT!
UGH!
HE'S STILL SINKING DEEPER AND DEEPER!
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
I CAN'T PULL HIM UP!
I CAN'T-
ズズズッ!!
WHAT DO I DO!?

DAD!
D...
HE'S SINKING!
In that mament,
But it was already too late.
USE TH-
My father tried to shout something out to ma,
NOOOO!
All I could see of him were his hands!
And before I knew it,
The water had reached ap to his nose,

JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO!?
OH NO!
PLEASE DON'T DIE!
DAD!
ズブ…
ズブ…
ズブ…
USE TH-
COME ON, THINK!
WHAT WAS HE TRYING TO SAY?
DAAAD!
AHH!


HE MUST'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME TO USE THIS WAGON!
AND...
ｸﾙｯ
THE WAGON!
THE IRON POLES!
THE WAGON!
I HAVE TO PILE IT ON.
ｶﾞﾐﾐｷﾞｷﾞ
ANYTHING HEAVY IS FINE!
OR WHATEVER!
IT'S TOO FAR!
AHH!
WHERE'RE THE REST OF THE POLES?
は？

EVEN NOW...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO GET IT!
IT'S ALL THE WAY AT THE OTHER SIDE!
DAMN IT!
ズ″ブ…
ズ″ブ…
ズ″ブ…
MY DAD'S ON THE VERGE OF DROWNING!
ズ″ブ…
ズ″ブ…
IT'S TOO LATE!
!!

THE CAR!
!!
PLEASE GOD!
PLEASE!

PLEASE LET IT BE OPEN!
ガッ!!
THERE'S JUST WHAT I NEED!
AND...
IT OPENED!
AHH!

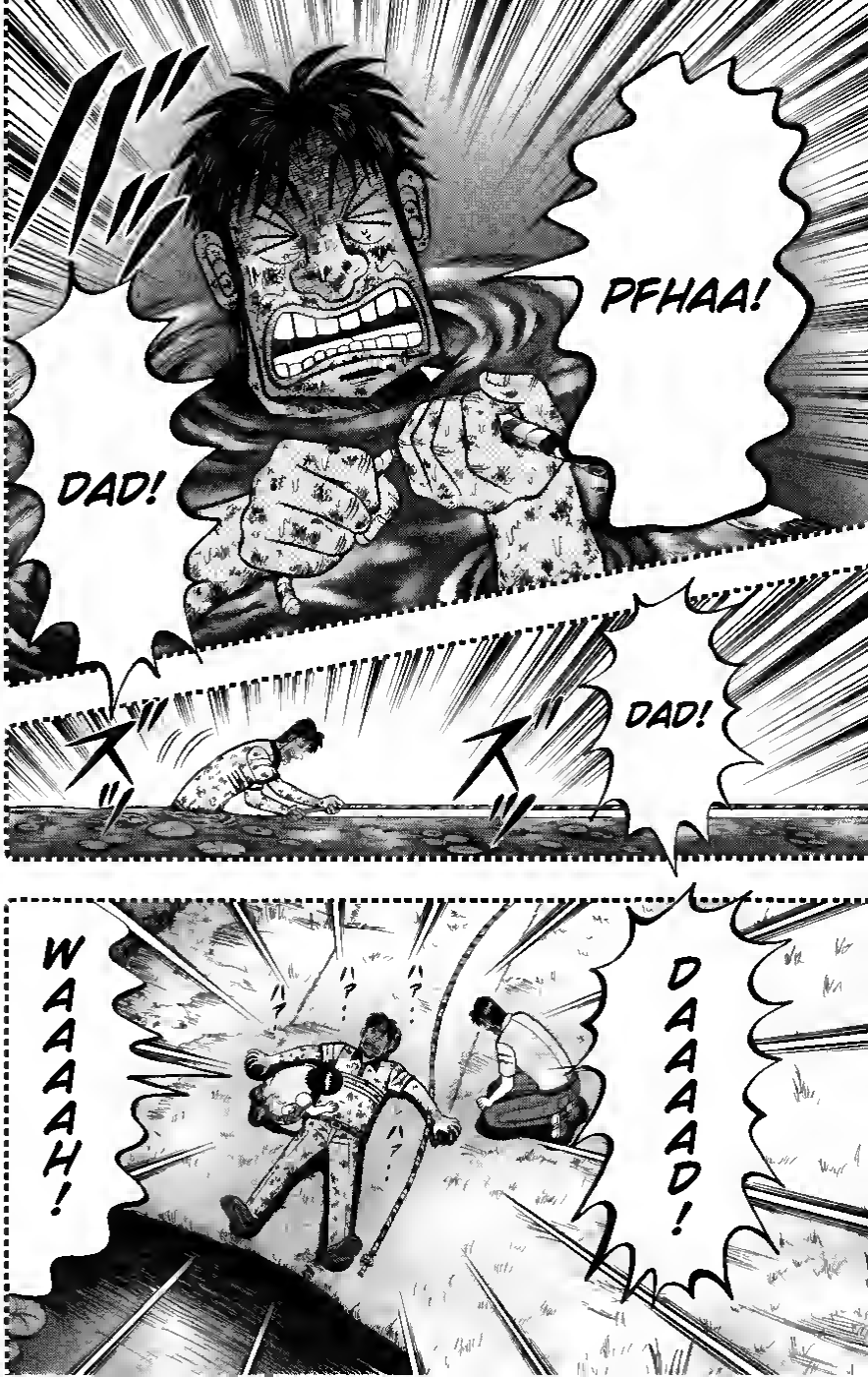
バッテリー!!
A BATTERY!
THE GOLFING BAG!
AND A SPARE TIRE!
I'VE GOTTA PUT ALL THE HEAVY STUFF IN THE WAGON,
AND TIE THE ROPE
AROUND THE WAGON'S HOOK

AND SPARE TIRE ON THE ROPE TO SECURE IT!
AND PUT THE BATTERY
GOOD!
WHAT?
SAWAKO! HELP ME OUT!

WE'RE GONNA PUSH THE CART!
SO COME ON!
LET'S...
RESCUE OUR DAD!
OK!

KEEP PUSHING!
PUSH!
PUSH!
PUSH!
PLEASE MOVE!
PLEASE!
Hᵖ

ズズズ
NO MATTER WHAT!
WE'RE GOING TO SAVE OUR DAD,
グ"グ"グ"…
グ"
グ"
グ"
グ"
グ"
NGHH!
UGHH!


PFHAA!
DAD!
DAD!
WAAAAH!
DAAAAD!
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…

WAAAAH!
WAAAAH!
UU...
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…
UUU …!
I'M SORRY!
DAD!
I WAS THE ONE,
WHO THREW SAWAKO'S DOLL INTO THE SWAMP!

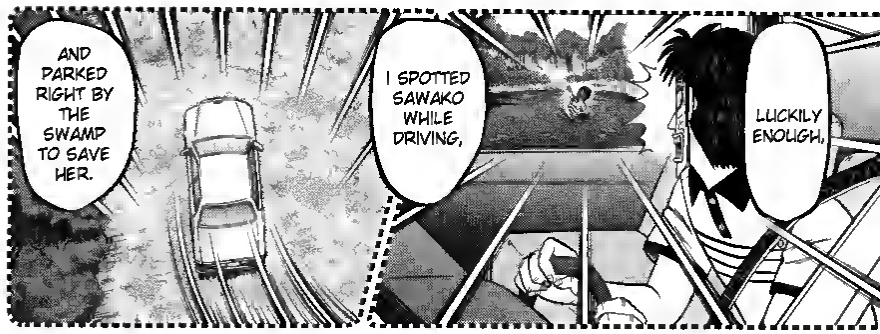
TAKA-MITSU...
IT'S ALL MY FAULT, DAD!
I DID IT...
BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY AT HER FOR FLOATING MY TOY BOAT DOWN THE SWAMP...
MADE THAT FENCE AROUND THAT SWAMP,
I SHOULD HAVE,
HUH?
I'M THE ONE THAT'S AT FAULT HERE.

I SHOULD HAVE,
NOT ONLY THAT,
AS TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY FROM THE SWAMP...
DAD...
PROPERLY WARNED YOU KIDS TO STAY AWAY FROM THE SWAMP...!
YOU DIIIIIID! WAAAH!
YOU DID!
YOU DID WARN US!
SAWAKO
ボロ...
ボロ...

SO JUST CALM DOWN, KIDS. I KNOW WE WENT THROUGH A HARROWING EXPERIENCE,
IT'S FINE...
IT'S...
I'M SO SORRY, DAD!
I'M SORRY!
あーん
BUT
WE STAVED OFF THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
NOR I ENDED UP DYING...!
NEITHER SAWAKO,
TRULY...
WE MANAGED TO AVOID IT!
.....
UU...
ボロ...
ボロ...
ボロ...

THIS WAS A BLESSING FROM HEAVEN!
IN THE SUMMER... THAT WAGON SHOULD USUALLY BE OUT ON THE FIELDS,
BUT BECAUSE OF THE RECENT WATERMELON HARVEST,
I HAD IT TEMPORARILY STORED IN THE SHACK...
AND THAT ROPE,
WAS ALSO IN THE SHACK SO I COULD EVENTUALLY GET AROUND TO MAKING THAT FENCE...!
AND TODAY..

I WAS PLANNING TO GOLF, BUT BECAUSE THE WEATHER WAS SO HOT,
I ENDED UP GROCERY SHOPPING,
AND COMING BACK HOME EARLY!


LUCKILY ENOUGH,
I SPOTTED SAWAKO WHILE DRIVING,
AND PARKED RIGHT BY THE SWAMP TO SAVE HER.

THANKS TO PARKING MY CAR SO CLOSE TO THE SWAMP,
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LOSE SO MUCH TIME GETTING THE STUFF OUT OF THE TRUNK, TAKAMITSU.
ALSO,
IT'S GOOD THAT I HAD KEPT THE TRUNK UNLOCKED!
LASTLY ...

INSIDE THE TRUNK TODAY!
TO HAVE THE SPARE TIRE, BATTERY, GOLF CLUB, AND OTHER HEAVY THINGS I USUALLY LEAVE OUTSIDE,
I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH,
THE GODS...
BUT!
EVEN THEIR BLESSING ALONE,
GAVE US THEIR BLESSING TODAY!
WAS NOT ENOUGH!
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING..

D...
DAAAD!
AND SAWAKO,
YOU DID A GREAT JOB BRINGING YOUR BROTHER LIKE I ASKED YOU TO.
YEAH, I DID!
HAHA
THAT'S WHAT SAVED ME!
WAS THE FACT THAT YOU REFUSED TO GIVE UP!

THAT WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
SO THAT WE COULD AVOID,
THAT'S RIGHT... WE ALL WORKED HARD TOGETHER,
THERE'S NOTHING MORE,
THAT I NEED THAN THAT!

HAHA
HUH?
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH!
LIFE IS...
AS LONG AS WE CAN AVOID THE WORST,
ゴロ

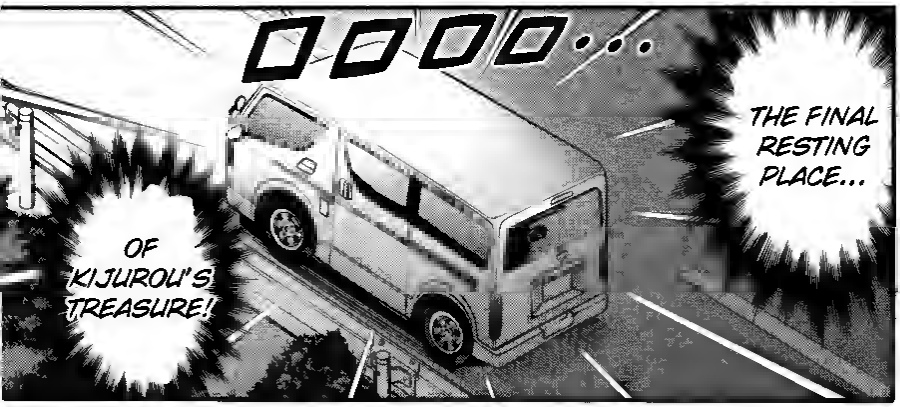
WHAT IS HAPPINESS? WHAT'S A TREASURE?
THAT'S THE LESSON THIS SWAMP HAS TAUGHT US!
A TRUE BLESSING!
AS LONG AS HUMANS CAN AVOID THE WORST AND LIVE WITH THEIR FAMILIES...

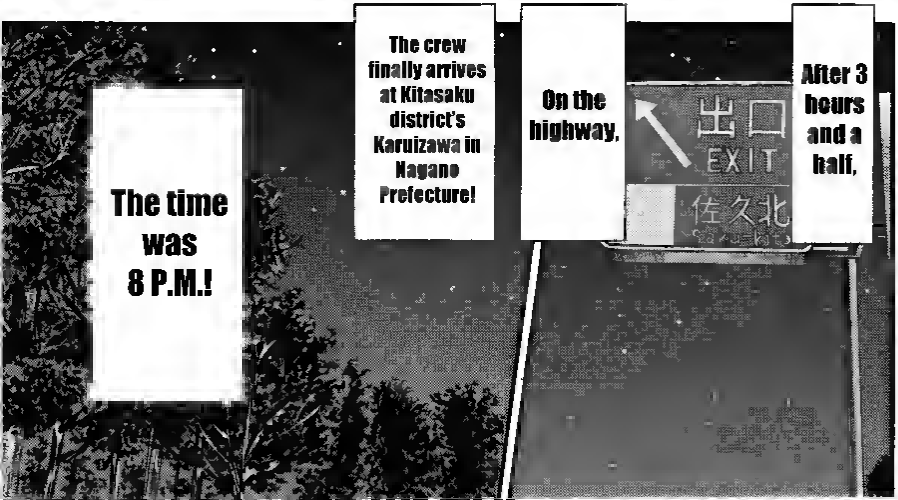
OUR LIVES ARE BLISS!
EVEN THE SAME OLD BLUE SKY,
THAT WE SEE OVER OUR HEADS, DAY AFTER DAY,
IS A TREASURE TO BEHOLD!

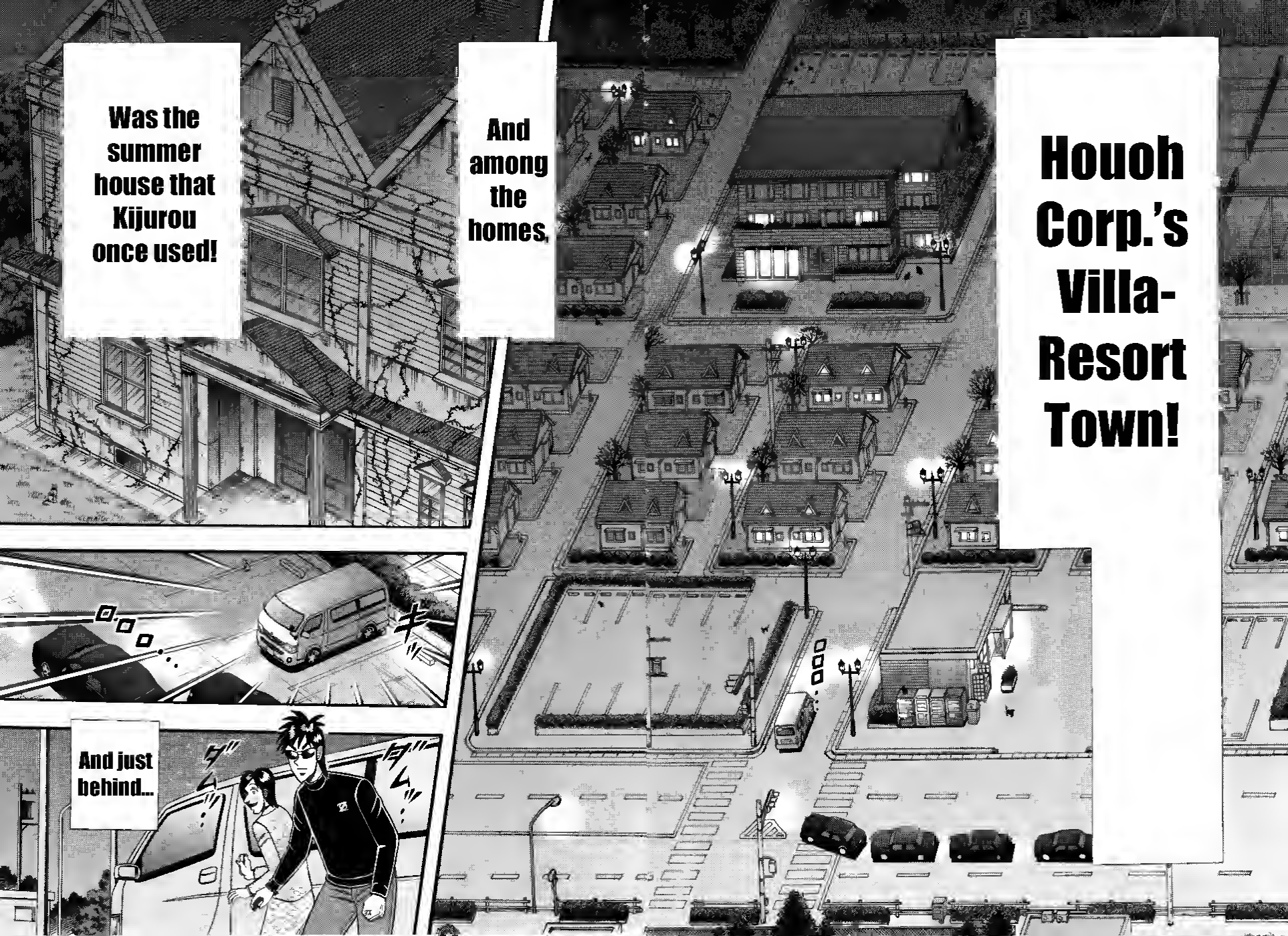
シャアーーーッ
SNIFF!
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LISTEN TO THAT STORY,
IT'S JUST AS TOUCHING AS EVER!
I SEE...

SO THE SWAMP WE'RE GOING TO IS THE LOCATION OF THAT INCIDENT...

HMM...
IF SOME-THING LIKE THAT,
HAPPENED AT THIS SWAMP,
THEN IT'S GOTTA BE THE PLACE!


OOOO...
THE FINAL RESTING PLACE...
OF KIJUROU'S TREASURE!


After 3 hours and a half,
On the highway,
出口
EXIT
佐久北
The crew finally arrives at Kitasaku district's Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture!
The time was 8 P.M.!

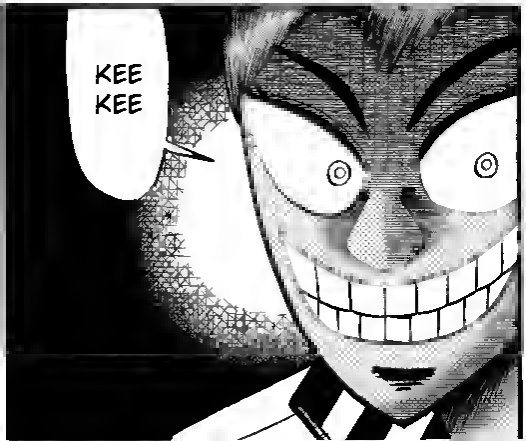

Houoh Corp.'s Villa-Resort Town!
And among the homes,
Was the summer house that Kijurou once used!
And just behind...
ドム!!
ドム!!

The swamp in question!

Was none other than,

WELL...
WE'VE ARRIVED AT LAST,
AT WHAT'S LIKELY TO BE OUR FINAL DESTINATION!
YOU MAY RESUME YOUR RACE FROM HERE!
LET'S TRY TO BEAR NO GRUDGES NO MATTER WHO WINS!

第59話 晩餐
Chapter 59 Dinner
I HOPE THERE'LL BE NO HARD FEELINGS,
NO MATTER WHO WINS!

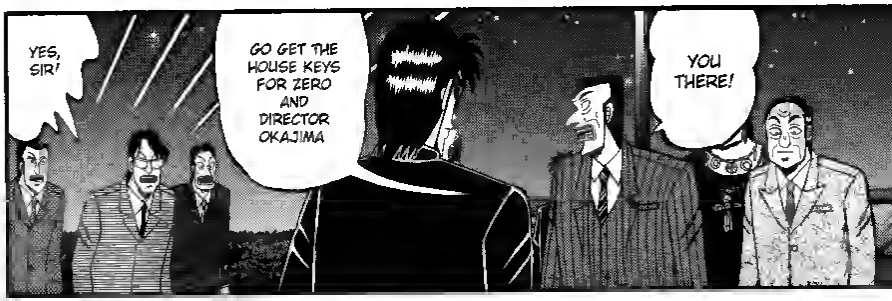

KEE KEE

OK!
I COULDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE!
I ADMIT...
THAT YOU'VE BEATEN ME UP UNTIL NOW,
BUT...
BUT! BUT! BUT!

EVEN THOUGH IT WOULDN'T BE A PERFECT VICTORY FOR ME, THE FINALE IS WHAT MATTERS MOST!
TO CRACK THE FINAL CODE!
I'LL BE THE ONE,
HAHA...
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH THAT, RIGHT!?
TATSUKI,
LET'S DO THIS THEN!
ALRIGHT!
NONE AT ALL.
IT'S ALREADY LATE IN THE EVENING.

I'LL PREPARE A BUNGALOW HERE IN THE RESORT FOR YOU TO USE.
I HOPE IT'LL BE ADEQUATE FOR YOU AND YOUR MEMBERS TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.

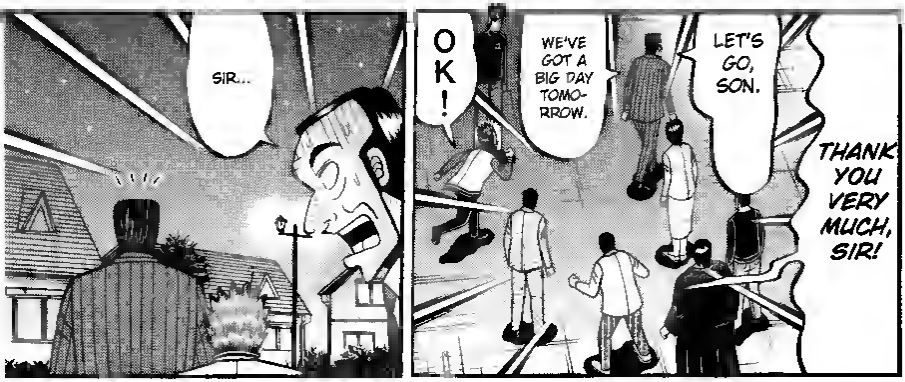
ZERO.
SO LET'S HOLD OFF THE INVESTI-GATION UNTIL TOMORROW


GO GET THE HOUSE KEYS FOR ZERO AND DIRECTOR OKAJIMA
YES, SIR!
YOU THERE!

HM?

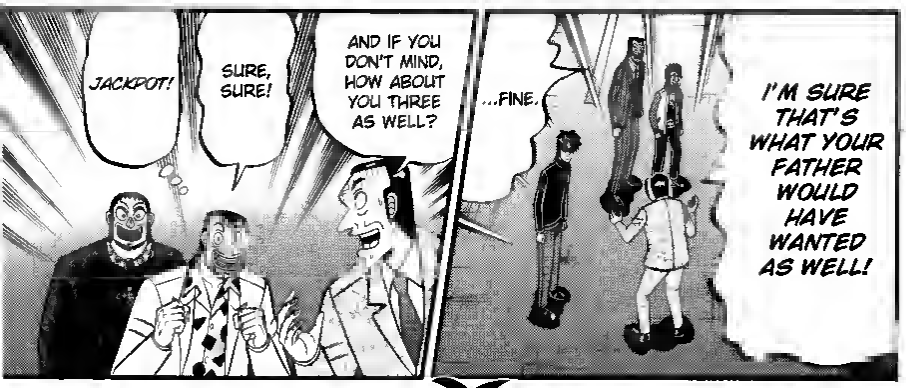
I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND HAVING TO SHARE BEDS WITH ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS
NO, NOT AT ALL
GRRRL

I'LL SEND SOME OF THE CHEFS OVER TO PREPARE DINNER FOR YOU AS WELL.
REALLY!?
OH RIGHT
B-BOY, I SURE AM HUNGRY!


SIR...
OK!
WE'VE GOT A BIG DAY TOMO-RROW.
LET'S GO, SON.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!

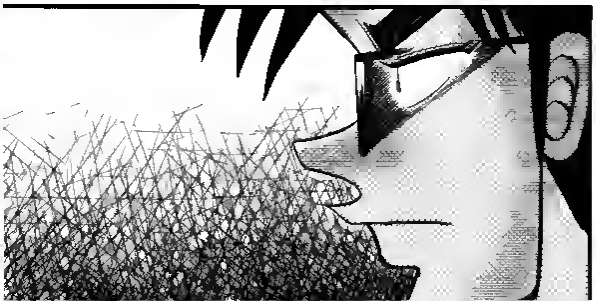
WHY DON'T...
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
WHAT IS IT?

WHY DON'T WE HAVE DINNER TOGETHER!?
AFTER ALL, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE WHOLE FAMILY COULD HAVE DINNER TOGETHER?
DON'T YOU THINK HAVING DINNER SEPARATELY,
IS A LITTLE COLD?
PLEASE, SIR!
JUST FOR THIS NIGHT, LET US ALL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER...!
.....


I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WANTED AS WELL!
...FINE.
AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, HOW ABOUT YOU THREE AS WELL?
SURE, SURE!
JACKPOT!

YOU TOO, JUNKO.
CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU TWO?
HUH?
ABOUT WHAT?

HAHA, THAT SOUNDS GREAT!
SUE-ZAKI.



Houoh Villa-Resort Restau-rant
カチャ…
パク
キーン
カチャ…
カチャ…
カチャ…
カチャ…
BUY SOME GOODS?
SO THEY WENT OUT TO A STORE TO BUY SOME GOODS.
BUT UNFORTU-NATELY, THEY HAD SOMETHING THEY NEEDED TO PREPARE.
THEY REALLY WANTED TO COME,
YES. THEY SAID THEY'RE SORRY THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT
WELL... THAT'S A SHAME.
モグ…
モグ…
AND THAT... REALLY BIG MAN/WOMAN?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT MAN WITH THE GOATEE,
OH THEM?
ZERO,

WHHHY!

ZERO TOLD US EXACTLY WHY!
YEAH BUT STILL...
STOP WHINING!
WHY THE HELL DO WE HAVE TO EAT THESE CHEAP BREAD ROLLS FOR DINNER!?

Earlier on..
SIGH...
WHAAAT?
YOU WANT JUST US 2 TO STAY BEHIND!?
I'M SORRY

OKAJIMA, MS. SAWAKO, AND THE PRESIDENT,
BUT WHY!?
ARE ALL SUSPECTS,
SO IT'S TOO RISKY IF ALL OF US ARE DISTRACTED EATING DINNER IN ONE PLACE.
IT'S AN IDEAL CHANCE,

FOR KIJUROU TO BE SECRETLY MOVED,
TO ANOTHER LOCATION!
IT'D BE LIKE GIVING THE CRIMINAL A GOLDEN CHANCE ON A SILVER PLATTER!
AHH!

I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE HAVING DINNER WITH THEM.
WHA?
SO I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS,
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,
THEN THAT OKAJIMA GUY'S EXTREMELY SUSPICIOUS FOR INVITING US ALL!
YES, I KNOW.
I GOT IT! IF WHAT YOU SAID IS TRUE,
AHHH!

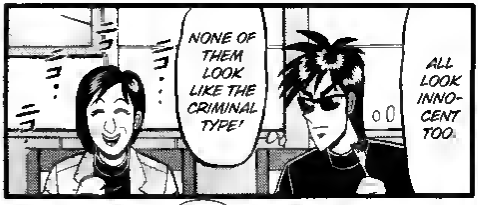
THAT'S WHY I'LL BE GOING TO DINNER,
AND OBSERVING THEIR BEHAVIOUR
カチャ
カチャ
AS SUEZAKI POINTED OUT,
DIRECTOR OKAJIMA IS CERTAINLY SUSPICIOUS,
FOR SUGGESTING THIS WHOLE DINNER THING,
BUT...
PRESIDENT KIJUROU!
IF ONLY YOU COULD BE HERE TO ENJOY THIS FAMILY DINNER...!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT,

I HIGHLY DOUBT HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE,
HE'S A LOYAL EMPLOYEE WHO'S BEEN KIJUROU'S RIGHT HAND MAN ALL THESE YEARS...
TO LOCK AWAY KIJUROU!
AND

SIMPLY PUT,
I JUST CAN'T SEE HIM AS THE CRIMINAL.
うう…

AND MS. SAWAKO,
ﾘﾋﾞ…

BOTH PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU,
IT'S NOT JUST OKAJIMA EITHER.


NONE OF THEM LOOK LIKE THE CRIMINAL TYPE!
ALL LOOK INNOCENT TOO.
ﾆﾗ…
ﾆﾗｰ…
ﾆﾗ…

ALL 3 OF THEM.

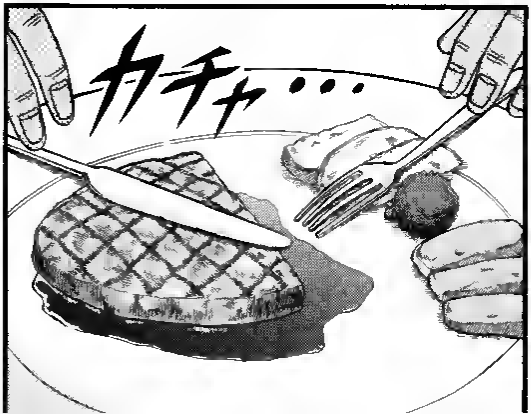
DELICIOUS!
キラーン…
ホホ…

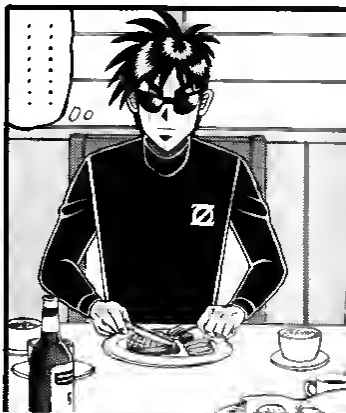
THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CALMLY HAVE A NICE DINNER LIKE THIS!
THAT WE'RE SO CLOSE TO FREEING KIJUROU!
THEY SHOULD BE PANICKING AT THE FACT,

Before the Cherry Blossoms fall...

THE CHERRY BLOSSOM LINE!!
AHHH!
に
!

COULD IT POSSIBLY MEAN...
THAT'S ONE LINE I STILL HAVEN'T QUITE DECODED...


カチャ・・・


・・・・・・

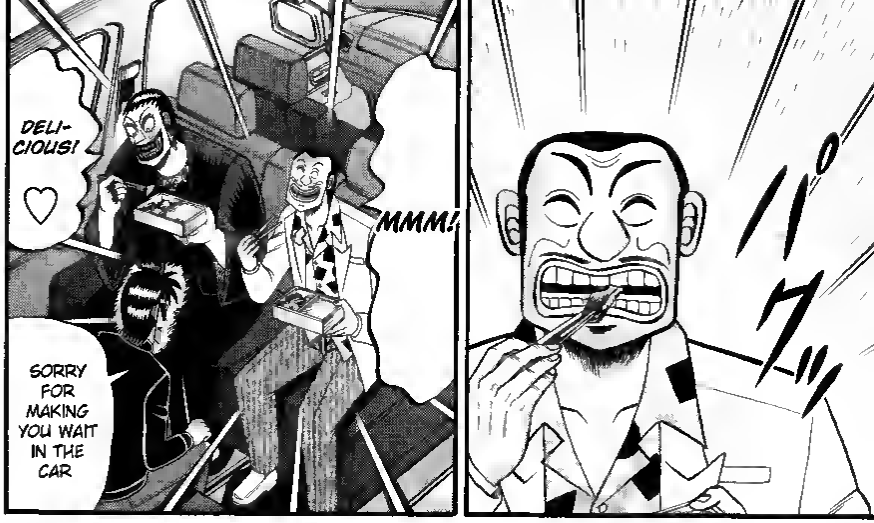
MA'AM,
WELL, I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN, ZERO
After Dinner
THAT WAS A GREAT MEAL.
MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEF.
OH?
MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
. . . . . .
I'M AFRAID I NEED IT BY TODAY!
MA'AM,
I'LL GET IT TO YOU FIRST THING TOMORROW THEN
I SEE! I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D NEED THAT URGENTLY.

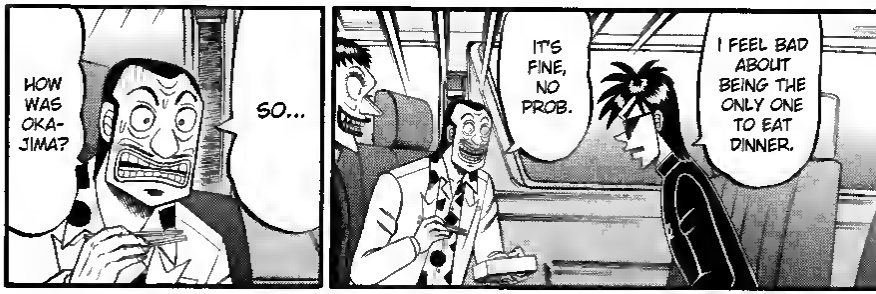
I'M AFRAID I'LL NEED TO STRETCH A BIT AND GO TO BED EARLY TODAY.
TO BE FRANK, I'M QUITE TIRED AND IT'S ALREADY PAST 10...
B-BUT,
HUH?

PLEASE, MA'AM!
I HOPE YOU CAN UNDER-STAND, ZERO.

I HOPE I CAN COUNT ON YOU, MA'AM!
HUH?

I BROUGHT YOU GUYS SOME-THING!
OHHH!
HAHA!
THANKS A LOT!
I ASKED THE CHEF,
TO PACK ANY LEFT-OVERS FOR YOU TWO.
I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH, ZERO!


DELI-
CIOUS!
MMM!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT IN THE CAR
パクッ!!


HOW WAS OKA-JIMA?
SO...
IT'S FINE, NO PROB.
I FEEL BAD ABOUT BEING THE ONLY ONE TO EAT DINNER.

HMM...
NOT AT ALL...
AAAAAA
WELL... I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT SOONER OR LATER...
YEAH, I SUPPOSE THE REAL CRIMINAL WOULDN'T GIVE HIMSELF AWAY THAT EASILY...
WELL...
DID HE ACT SUSPI-CIOUSLY?

SUEZAKI.
I BET YOU CAN FIND HIM FOR SURE WITHIN 5 OR 7 DAYS...
THAT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME! HE'S GOTTA BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE,
THOUGH WITH YOUR BRAINS,
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE SHOULD FOCUS ON SOLVING THE RIDDLE AND FINDING KIJUROU!
I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T CUT IT.
HUH?
AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE TREASURE SWAMP BY THE END OF TODAY AT THE LATEST..
TO BRING ME THE MAP OF THIS RESORT,
I TOLD MS. SAWAKO EARLIER,
HUH?
IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT,
THEN KIJUROU
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
WHY THE RUSH?
END OF TODAY AT THE LATEST?

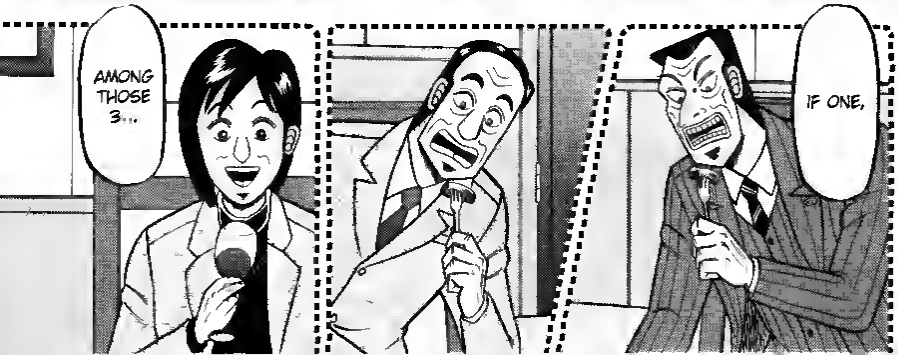
IS AT DEATH'S DOOR RIGHT NOW!

第60話 懸念
Chapter 60 Concern

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

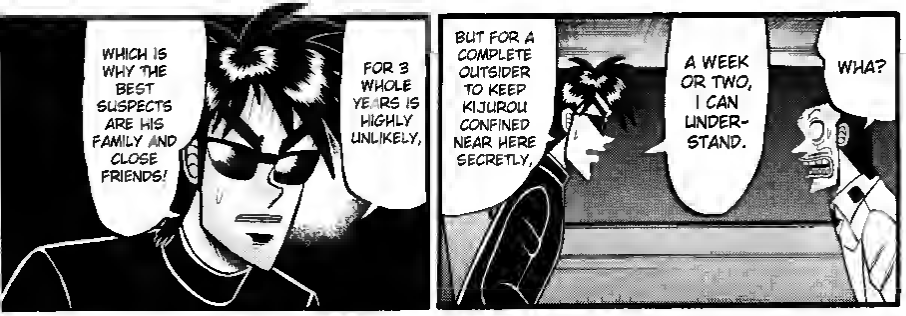
EVERYONE WAS PERFECTLY CALM!
NOT EVEN A HINT OF ANXIETY!

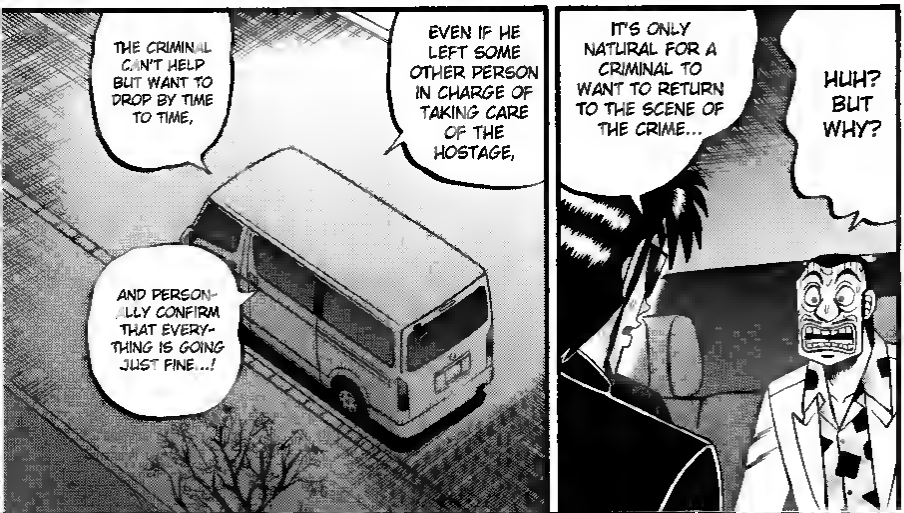
IT WAS STRIKINGLY ODD.
AFTER ALL, KIJUROU'S SOMEWHERE NEARBY,
AND WE'RE SO CLOSE TO RESCUING HIM!
SO CONSIDERING THAT,


AMONG THOSE 3...
IF ONE,

REALLY IS THE CRIMINAL, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY CALM!
Presideot Takamitsu
Director Okajima
Director Sawako
I WISH THAT WERE THE CASE...
MAYBE NONE OF THEM ARE THE CRIMINALS?
THEN...
BUT...

I DON'T THINK THAT'S LIKELY WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE FACTS.
IF KIJUROU IS REALLY CONFINED SOMEWHERE NEAR THIS RESORT,
THEN 3 YEARS IS IMPOSSIBLE!

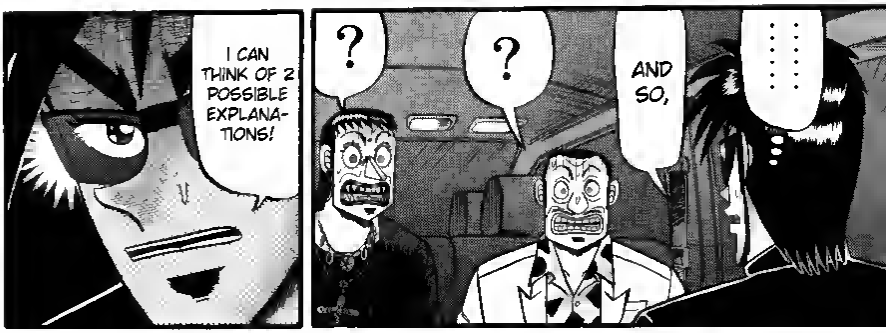

WHA?
A WEEK OR TWO, I CAN UNDER-STAND.
BUT FOR A COMPLETE OUTSIDER TO KEEP KIJUROU CONFINED NEAR HERE SECRETLY,
FOR 3 WHOLE YEARS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY,
WHICH IS WHY THE BEST SUSPECTS ARE HIS FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS!


HUH? BUT WHY?
IT'S ONLY NATURAL FOR A CRIMINAL TO WANT TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME...
EVEN IF HE LEFT SOME OTHER PERSON IN CHARGE OF TAKING CARE OF THE HOSTAGE,
THE CRIMINAL CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO DROP BY TIME TO TIME,
AND PERSON-ALLY CONFIRM THAT EVERY-THING IS GOING JUST FINE...!

AFTER ALL, THIS IS A VILLA-RESORT BUILT SPECIFICALLY BY THE HOUOH CORPORATION.
HE'D STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB!
IT'S TO BE USED BY THE HOUJO FAMILY AND THOSE WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE COMPANY.
IF THE CRIMINAL WERE SOME STRANGER,
WHICH IS WHY,
ON THE OTHER HAND, NOBODY WOULD BAT AN EYE,
OVER THE COURSE OF 3 YEARS!
WOULD EASILY BE NOTICED IF HE CAME NUMEROUS TIMES,
AN OUTSIDER,
IN SHORT, IT'S A PRIVATE TOWN RUN BY THE HOUOH CORP!
IF THE CRIMINAL WERE A CLOSE RELATIVE OF KIJUROU!
.....
HMM...
THE CRIMINAL WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEONE VERY CLOSE TO KIJUROU IF THEY WANTED TO CHECK UP ON HIM WITHOUT RAISING SUSPICION.
SO YOU SEE,

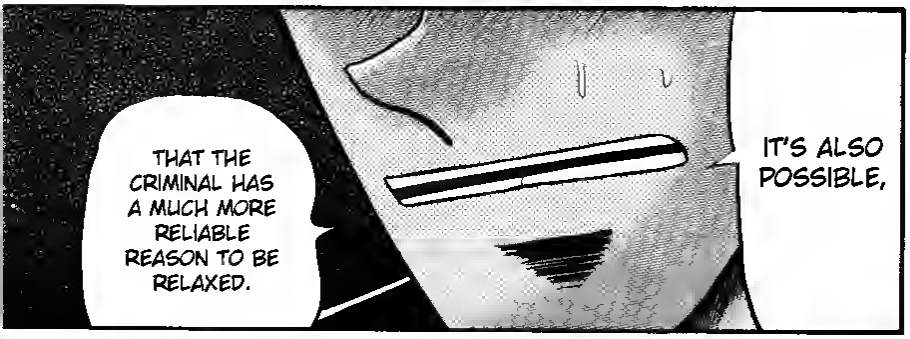
IF I WERE THE CRIMINAL,
I MEAN,
ACCORDING TO YOUR LOGIC.
YEAH, GOOD POINT. THOSE 3 DEFINITELY SEEM LIKE THE BEST POSSIBLE SUSPECTS,
SO,
AGREED.
I'D DEFINITELY WANT TO CHECK UP ON MY HOSTAGE EVERY NOW AND THEN!
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN,
THAT ONE OF THEM HAS TO BE THE CRIMINAL!
IT'S VERY LIKELY,
ARE INDEED VERY STRANGE.
THEN THEIR BEHAVIOURS AT THE DINNER TONIGHT,
IF WE CAN MAKE THAT ASSUMPTION,
NOW,

IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!


I CAN THINK OF 2 POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS!
?
?
AND SO,
.....

SO EVEN IF WE RESCUED HIM,
AND COULD NEVER FIGURE IT OUT DURING HIS CONFINEMENT,
THINGS WOULD END AT THAT!
IS THAT KIJUROU HAS NO IDEA WHO LOCKED HIM IN,
ONE POSSIBILITY,

BUT...
THAT CAN EXPLAIN WHY THE CRIMINAL CAN BE SO CALM RIGHT NOW,
WHO THE REAL CRIMINAL WAS.
KIJUROU WOULD SPEND THE REST OF HIS LIFE WONDERING,


THAT THE CRIMINAL HAS A MUCH MORE RELIABLE REASON TO BE RELAXED.
IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE,

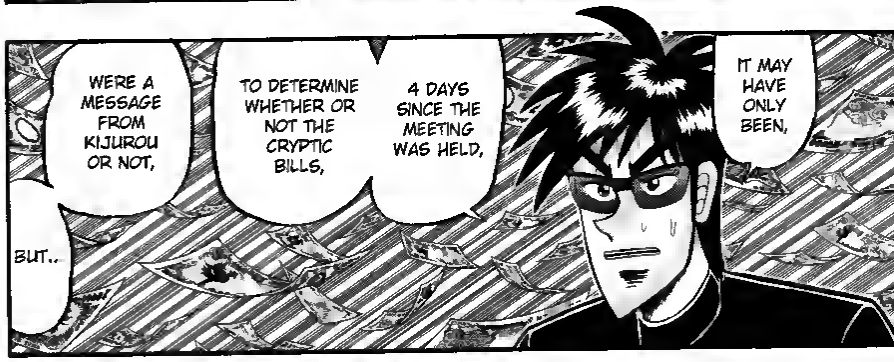
AND THAT'S...

THE FACT THAT KIJUROU,
MAY ALREADY BE DEAD!

THAT DOESN'T MAKE A LICK OF SENSE!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT!?
IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE!
ZERO!
WHA!?

HOWEVER...
YES AND I STILL BELIEVE SO TOO.
I MEAN, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUES MUST'VE BEEN AN SOS MESSAGE FROM KIJU-

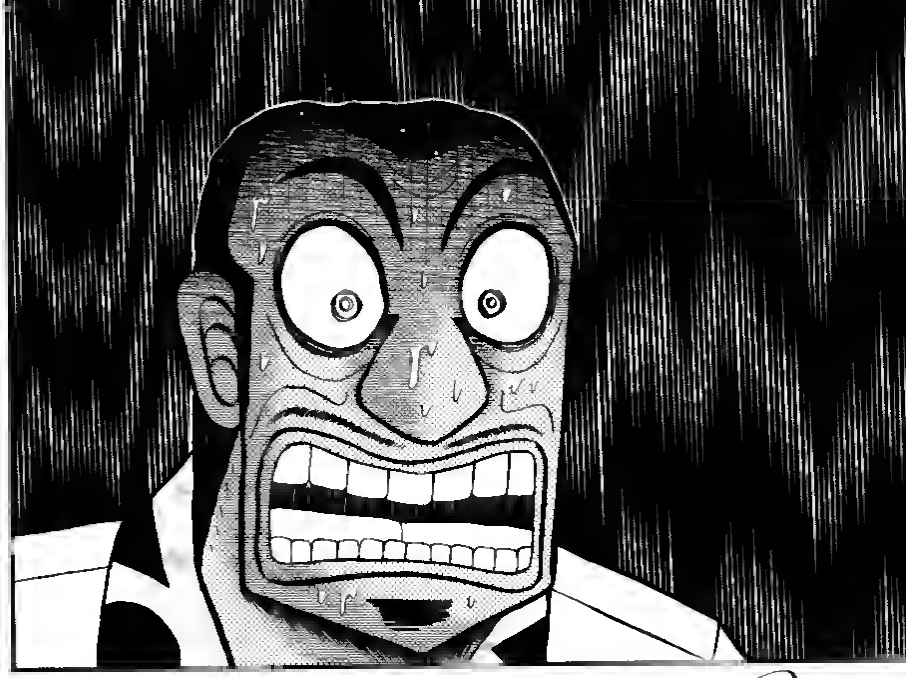
AFTER?
A...
WHA!
THE KEY IS WHAT HAPPENED AFTER HE WROTE THOSE MESSAGES!


BUT..
WERE A MESSAGE FROM KIJUROU OR NOT,
TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE CRYPTIC BILLS,
4 DAYS SINCE THE MEETING WAS HELD,
IT MAY HAVE ONLY BEEN,

IT TOOK THE BILLS TO GET SPREAD AND THE RUMOURS TO START...
BUT IF YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE TIME,
THAT'S 11 DAYS IN TOTAL!
THEN WE COULD BE LOOKING AT 1 OR 2 MONTHS!

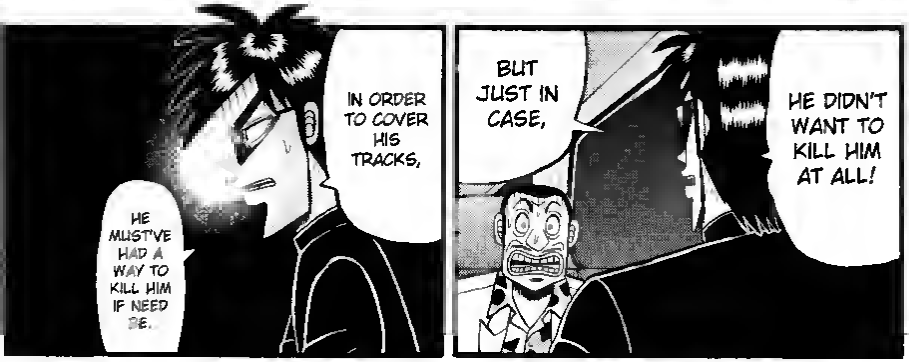
A WEEK IN ADVANCE!
THAT MEETING WAS PLANNED,

YOU MEAN LIKE MOVE HIM TO ANOTHER PLACE?
FURTHER ACTION?
HUH?
NO...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE CRIMINAL MAY HAVE TAKEN FURTHER ACTION!
DURING THAT TIME,
WITHOUT AVOIDING SUSPICION OR BEING SPOTTED BY SOMEONE.
WOULD BE TOO HARD TO PULL OFF,
MOVING HIM TO ANOTHER LOCATION,
WAIT —
THAT'S WHY...
ONLY ALLOW HIM TO BE BLACKMAILED FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.
THAT WOULD,
EVEN IF HE ASKED ILLEGAL ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP HIM MOVE KIJUROU SECRETLY,



K-KILLED HIM...?
D-DON'T TELL ME THAT THE CRIMINAL...
NO...
EFFEC-TIVELY, YES.

IF HE DID, THEN HE WOULD'VE HAD KIJUROU KILLED LONG AGO.
IS THAT THE CRIMINAL DIDN'T REALLY HATE KIJUROU ALL THAT MUCH.
IF POSSI-BLE,
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
EFFEC-TIVELY?
MY GUESS,


IN ORDER TO COVER HIS TRACKS,
HE MUST'VE HAD A WAY TO KILL HIM IF NEED BE.
BUT JUST IN CASE,
HE DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM AT ALL!

IS TO CUT HIM OFF!
A METHOD THAT'S PREFER-ABLY NON-VIOLENT.
THAT METHOD,

CUT KIJUROU OFF FROM HIS FOOD SUPPLY!
WHAT!
CAN SURVIVE FOR 4 DAYS WITHOUT WATER
AN AVERAGE PERSON,
AHH!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WE'RE TOO LATE!
B-BUT...

KIJUROU,
HUH?
THAT IT'S ALREADY BEEN 4... NO, 11 DAYS! NO, 1 OR 2 MONTHS!
YOU JUST SAID,
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE OF SAVING HIM!
WHA?
AND MADE A WISE PREDICTION!
ANALYSED HIS DILEMMA,
HIS FOOD SUPPLIES WOULD BE CUT!
HIS SOS MESSAGES CIRCULATING,
HE PREDICTED THAT WHEN THE CRIMINAL SAW,
A PREDICTION?

KIJUROU EXPECTED ALL OF THAT IN ADVANCE!
THAT'S WHY...
HE WROTE, "BEFORE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL!"
HUH?
I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THE MEANING OF THAT LINE UNTIL NOW,
BECAUSE I EXPECTED IT TO BE ANOTHER HINT TO WHERE HE HID HIS TREASURE!
BUT IT WAS SIMPLY A STATEMENT ABOUT HIS DIRE SITUATION
IN OTHER WORDS,
Before the cherry blossoms fall

THAT'S WHAT THE LAST LINE MEANS!

AHHH!

SOME FOOD AND WATER FOR THIS EVENTUALITY

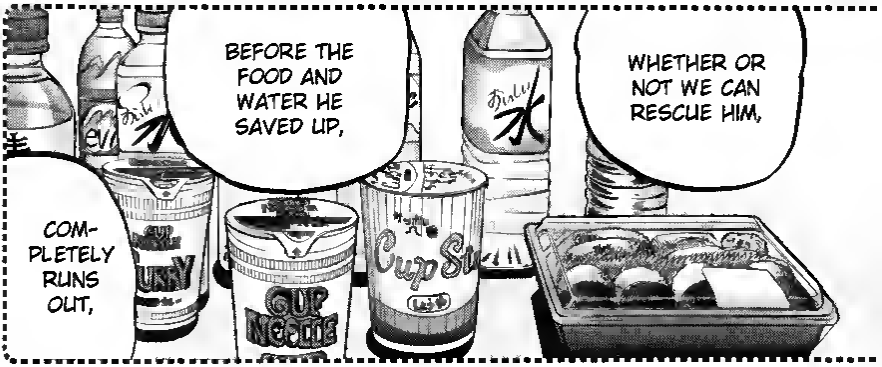
KIJUROU PROBABLY SAVED UP,

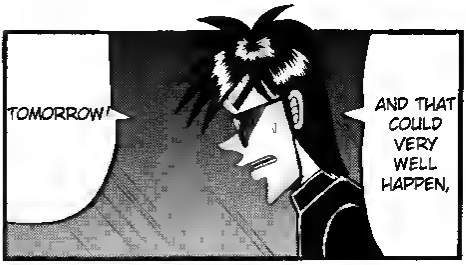
NOW,

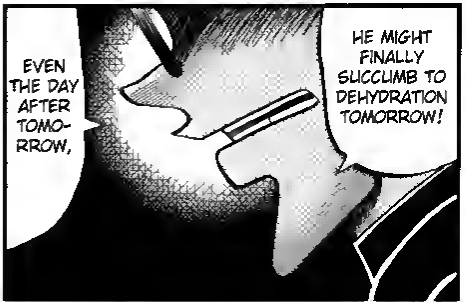
AHHH!

BUT THE POINT IS THAT HE DID SAVE SOME AMOUNT OF FOOD AND WATER
SO THE PROBLEM IS,
OR A MONTH'S WORTH,

I DON'T KNOW IF HE SAVED UP 10 DAYS' WORTH,
T-THAT'S GOOD...


BEFORE THE FOOD AND WATER HE SAVED UP,
COM-PLETELY RUNS OUT,
WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN RESCUE HIM,


TOMORROW!
AND THAT COULD VERY WELL HAPPEN,


EVEN THE DAY AFTER TOMO-RROW,
HE MIGHT FINALLY SUCCUMB TO DEHYDRATION TOMORROW!

OR DEHY-DRA-TION!
AND HE EITHER DIES OF STARVA-TION,

OH CRAP!
AHH!
MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
THAT'S WHY,
NOT AFTER WE CAME SO CLOSE TO RESCUING HIM!
B-BUT HE CAN'T DIE...!
WE HAVE TO FIND HIM TOMORROW!
NO MATTER WHAT!
I WANT TO SETTLE THIS LAST STEP IN ONE DAY!

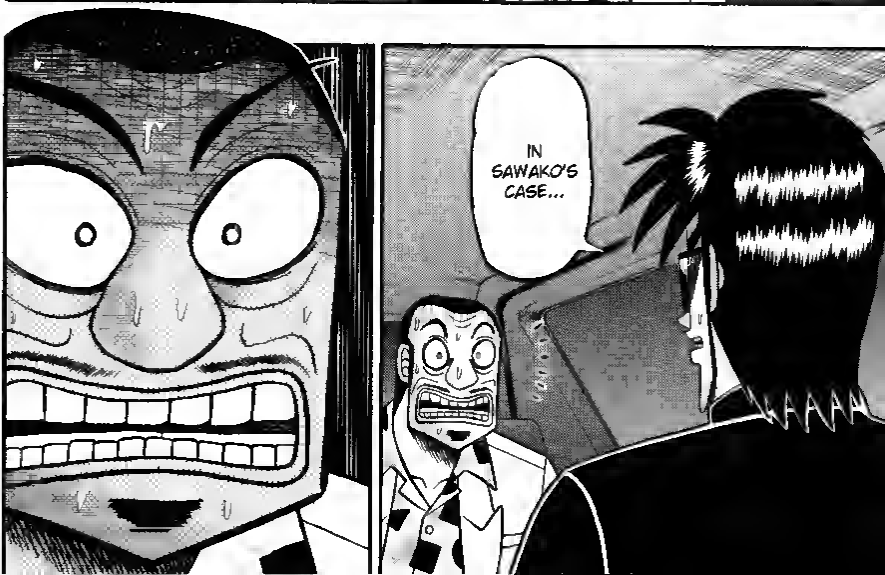
仏陀の最期を看取る宝沼で
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS
WE HAVE JUST ONE DAY TO CRACK THAT CODE!

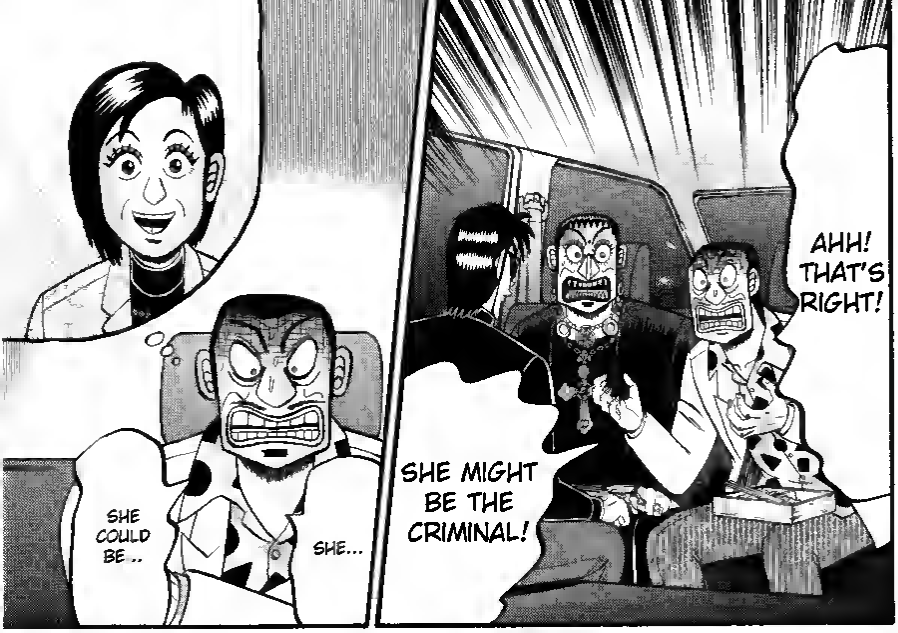
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS

Chapter 61 Dire

PLEASE KEEP WHAT I JUST SAID SECRET.
TO BOTH NAOKI AND MS. SAWAKO.
OF COURSE, OF COURSE!

WHY WOULD I EVEN BE THE ONE,
WHO'D WILLINGLY WANT TO BREAK THE NEWS THAT THEIR GRAMPS MIGHT BE DEAD!?
YES, THERE'S THAT REASON TOO BUT...

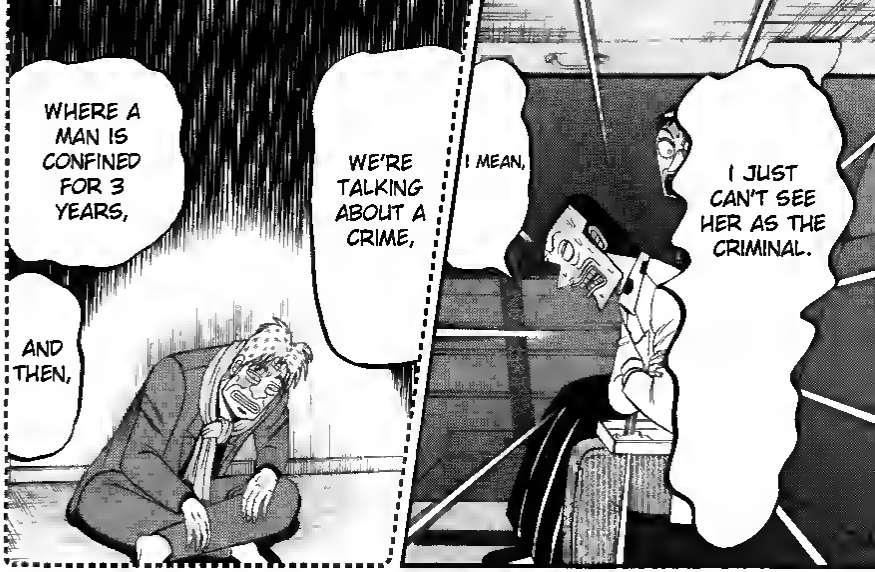

IN SAWAKO'S CASE...


AHH! THAT'S RIGHT!
SHE MIGHT BE THE CRIMINAL!
SHE...
SHE COULD BE...

HMM...
YOU KNOW,
AS ANNOYING,
AND DITZY AS THAT WOMAN CAN BE...

. . . . . .

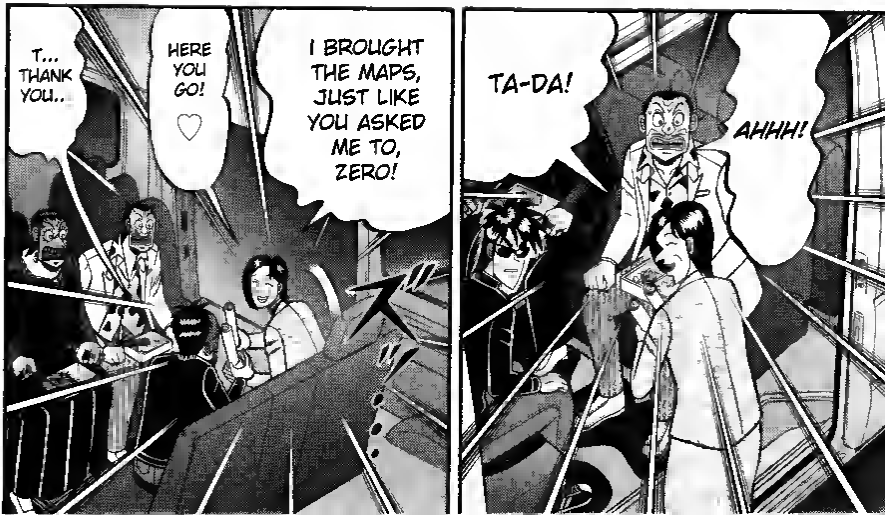
I...


I JUST CAN'T SEE HER AS THE CRIMINAL.
I MEAN,
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A CRIME,
WHERE A MAN IS CONFINED FOR 3 YEARS,
AND THEN,

HIS FOOD IS FINALLY CUT! EVEN IF IT'S NOT DIRECT,
THIS IS STILL A MURDER WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!
AND I JUST DON'T THINK,

THE MADAME HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO MURDER SOMEONE...
YES, THAT'S-

ギ…
ガラッ


T... THANK YOU..
HERE YOU GO! ♡
I BROUGHT THE MAPS, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED ME TO, ZERO!
TA-DA!
AHHH!

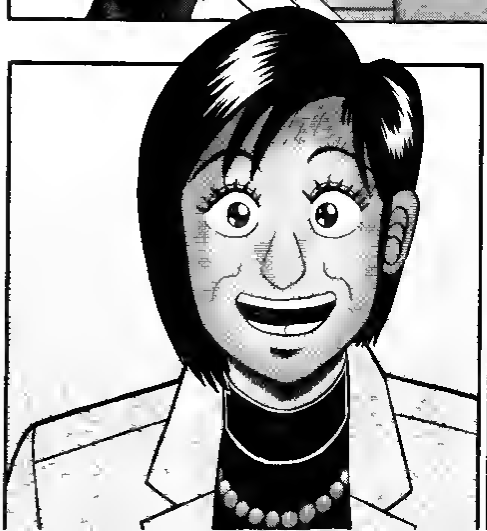
PARDON?
YOU FOUND US QUITE EASILY, DIDN'T YOU...
.....
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO BE A HELP!
HEE HEE!
HOW DID YOU KNOW,
I WAS ALREADY TAKING A WALK SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT TRY AND FIND YOU!
OH THAT?
THAT WE WERE INSIDE THE CAR...? YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST GIVEN US A CALL...
I SEE..
HOHO!
AND I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO SPOT THE CAR PARKED OUT HERE!
I WAS JUST WANDERING FROM ROAD TO ROAD,
BUT IN ANY CASE,
IF I COULDN'T, I WAS PLANNING TO JUST GIVE YOU A CALL ONCE I FINISHED TAKING MY NIGHT STROLL.

YES?

I GUESS MY INSTINCTS ARE PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT!?
HOHO!
MADAME

DID YOU HEAR US?

IS IF YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN EAVES-DROPPING ON US,
JUST NOW...
WHAT I MEAN TO ASK IS...
HM?

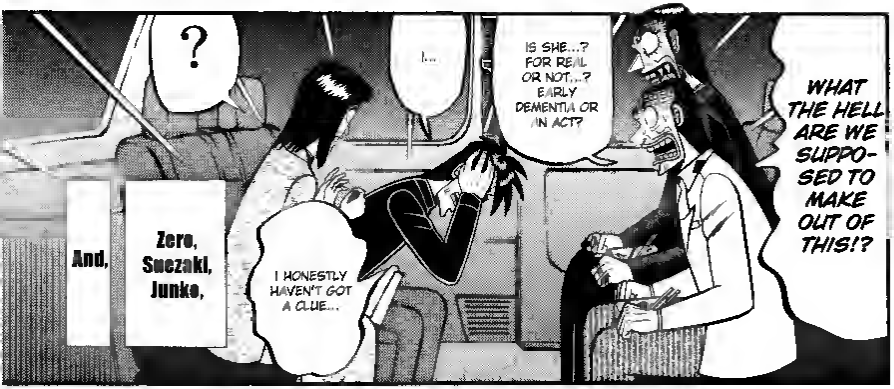


YES!
EAVES-DROP?

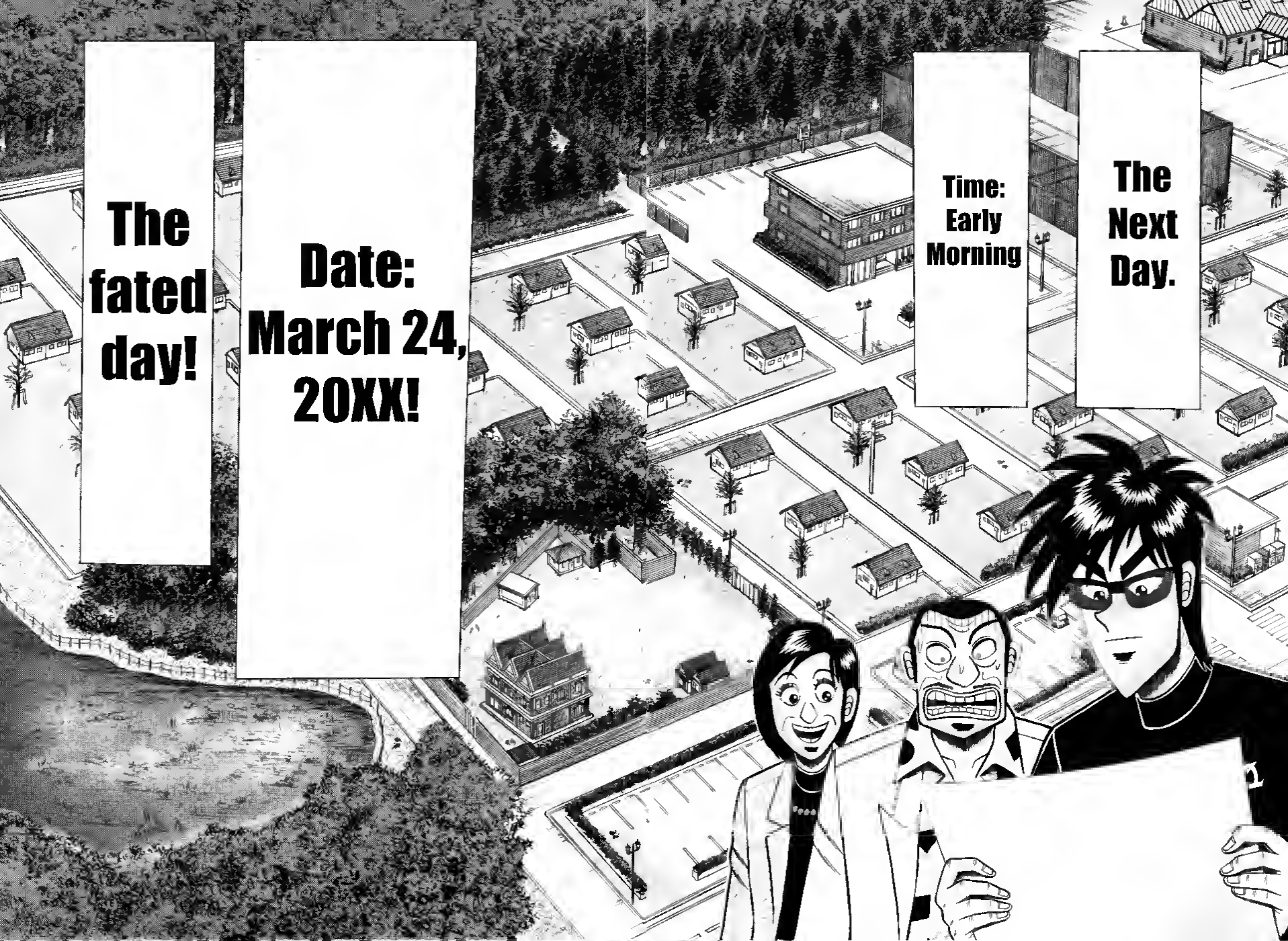
AHHH! SO YOU DID OVERHEAR US!
WELL...
ドヂ
OHHHH! THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT!
I USUALLY HOLD THE PHONE LIKE THIS.
COME AGAIN!?
YES, SO LIKE I JUST SAID...
.....

*"TO EAVESDROP" CAN BE SYNONYMOUS TO THE "EAR YOU LISTEN WITH" IN JAPANESE

ざわ..
Z-ZERO!
...
ざわ..
HO HO HO
SO YEAH, THAT'S ME PICKING UP A PHONE.
ざわ..
ざわ..


?
And,
Zero, Suezaki, Junko,
I HONESTLY HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE...
I...
IS SHE...? FOR REAL OR NOT...? EARLY DEMENTIA OR IN ACT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE WE SUPPO-SED TO MAKE OUT OF THIS!?

With many questions and doubts still in their minds.
Went to bed that night.
? ? ?
Sawako,


The fated day!
Date: March 24, 20XX!
Time: Early Morning
The Next Day.

Eech perty headed off in different directions.
The search for a man in mortal crisis!
And so the search began!

Started off by looking into areas near the Treasure Swamp,
President Takamitsu,

As for Zero...
Bngnn nn nxnminntinn nf thn 50 nr so nmpinynn homns in thn rnsnrt.
Whilo Oknjinn,

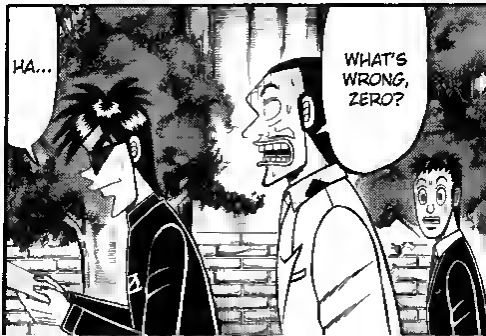
He and his party members,

Headed first to the mansion!

Each year!
Where the family spent their summers,
ガシャン
The Houjo family mansion,

Their search had now begun!
WOW... IT MAY BE OLD BUT THIS HOUSE SURE LOOKS IMPRESSIVE!
...YES.

I BELIEVE,
WE JUST DREW THE WINNING LOT!

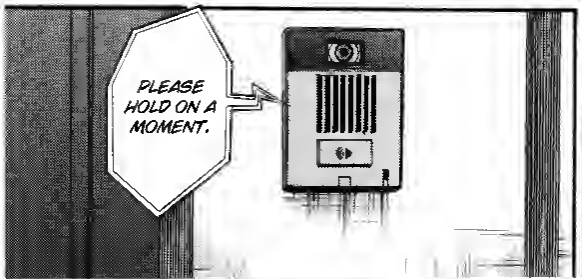

HA...
WHAT'S WRONG, ZERO?

HUH?
KIJUROU'S SECRET ROOM,
ISN'T NEAR THE SWAMP OR IN ONE OF THE OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE RESORT.
IT'S MOST LIKELY HERE!
WHAT?

HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT?
THAT'S WHAT MY INSTINCT TOLD ME,
AS SOON AS I SAW THE BLUEPRINTS FOR THIS MANSION LAST NIGHT.

AH ..

AND MY SUSPICIONS ARE ONLY GROWING STRONGER,
NOW THAT I'M SEEING IT FIRST-HAND.


PLEASE HOLD ON A MOMENT.

MS SAWAKO HAS ARRANGED,
FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE HOUSE TO BE CONDUCTED TODAY. MAY I THUS CONFIRM YOUR IDENTITIES?
YES, THIS IS SAWAKO.
.....
THANK YOU, MA'AM.
ALRIGHT!~

I'VE GOT TO GATHER ALL MY WITS, CONCENTRATION, AND CAUTION.
ONCE I ENTER INSIDE!

IT'S TIME!

NO MATTER HOW SLIGHT OR TRIVIAL SOME-THING IS,
I'VE GOT TO EXHAUS-TIVELY ANALYZE IT!
目
DON'T OVERLOOK A SINGLE DETAIL!
をす
I'VE GOT TO COME AT THIS FINAL CODE WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!

仏陀の
収める
沼で
AT THE TREASURE SWAMP THAT SEES BUDDHA IN HIS FINAL MOMENTS

ギッ
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE WAIT
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU ALL.
MY NAME IS KAGEYAMA.
MY ANCESTORS AND I HAVE TENDED TO THE PROPER MAINTENANCE OF THIS MANSION.
FOR GENERATIONS.
[8巻につづく]
TRANSLATED BY HOX

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ゼロ ギャン鬼編
GYANKI
ZERO
賽十郎の頭の中
グチャグチャ
！
仕掛けられた謎！
超難解暗号を突破し、
零は賽十郎を
救出できるか!?
地下で！
謎!!
謎!!!
う！
あったよ！
でっかい
ヒントが！
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